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Strong Data Point to a Good '94 for U.S. Economy

Leading Indicators Rise 0.5%, and Home Sales Attain a Record High

By Lawrence Malkin International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — A stream of upbeat U.S. economic statistics came to a climax on Wednesday with a fourth successive monthly rise in the government's chief forecasting gauge and a healthy gain in home sales.

The index of 11 leading indicators, which is designed to predict economic activity six to nine months in the future, gained 0.5 percent in November, the Commerce Department reported.

Along with data in the last week suggesting that consumer and business confidence was increasing, Wednesday's statistics appeared to underpin economists' predictions that 1994 would be a year of steady growth without much inflation.

After four years of a dismal housing market, sales began picking up this year. Pent-up demand was fed by low mortgage rates, which in turn were brought down by the Clinton administration's deficit-reduction legislation.

Low interest rates also helped auto sales rebound in mid-December to an annual pace of 12.9 million, 21 percent above December 1992.

Through Christmas Day, the month's sales of department and discount stores were 8.1 percent ahead of last December, Johnson Redbook Service, which monitors retail trends, reported.

On Tuesday, the Commerce Department forecast a 2.8 percent increase in manufacturing shipments next year, the highest jump since 1983, with autos, computers, appliances, home furnishings and medical equipment pacing the overall advance in capital equipment and consumer durables.

All this pushed up the Conference Board's index of consumer confidence for December by 8.3 points, to 80.2, an increase of almost 20 points just since October.

Several forecasters shaded their estimates of inflation-adjusted growth in the overall economy upward by half a percentage point or so for this quarter to an annual rate of 4 to 4.5 percent.

Estimates for growth in gross domestic product for the first quarter of 1994 were likewise boosted to about 3 percent. After the first three months of the year, hardly anyone is taking bets on anything more than 2.5 or 3 percent growth, with inflation slightly less.

Among these is Lawrence H. Meyer, an economic consultant in St. Louis, Missouri, who won this year's forecasting award given by Blue See RECOVERY, Page 10



ONE BIG BUDDHA — A security officer is dwarfed by the head of one of the world's largest bronze Buddhas, dedicated Wednesday in Hong Kong. It stands 34 meters high.

China Takes a Leap Toward a Convertible Currency

By Kevin Murphy International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — China's decision Wednesday to float its currency starting Saturday will end the complicated and costly currency transactions that penalize foreign companies and travelers in China.

The move, which is aimed at accelerating reform of China's chaotic financial system, will scrap a dual exchange-rate system and end more than four decades of rate setting by central government planners in a socialist, command economy.

The free market will now determine the value of the yuan, the central People's Bank of China said. The decision is likely to help Beijing in its bid to join the international trade and financial community on a more even footing.

In addition, complex rules announced by the central bank made it clear that access to foreign exchange would remain restricted. However, foreigners working or traveling in China will no longer need to cash in their

There are plans to overhaul the state banking system. The exchange-rate announcement came days after a report that the move would be put off until spring.

The long-awaited currency reform is a key for further reform of the foreign trade system, and it will have a profound effect on the development of China's foreign trade.

Abolishing the two rates is just the latest step by China toward a more market-style economy. New tax laws also take effect Saturday and

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Zhirinovskiy's Road Show Gets Raving-Mad Reviews

By Lee Hockstader Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — In Austria, where he was the guest of a former Nazi, he rattled Europe with claims of a mysterious new weapon stronger than the atom bomb.

In Bulgaria, before he was expelled, angry crowds screamed "Damn you!" and pelted him with debris.

On Wednesday, Germany refused to grant him a visa. And Australians are up in arms at reports that his next stop may be Sydney.

With the possible exception of Michael Jackson's world tour, Vladimir V. Zhirinovskiy may be setting a new standard for disastrous road trips.

The Russian nationalist, who wants to restore the Soviet Union's borders and add Alaska and Finland for good measure, embarked on a European vacation shortly after his extremist party's stunning success on Dec. 12 in elections for a new national legislature.

Since then, his rich repertoire of obnoxious, outlandish and impolitic pronouncements has prompted bowls of protest and derision in his host countries.

But although the temptation may be to dismiss Mr. Zhirinovskiy as a loathsome boor, as his critics have done for so long, he is not being treated that way in Europe.

Rather, his drumbeat of crude and threatening declarations has caused diplomatic unease at the highest levels. In particular, his outrageous remarks, coupled with his recent show of support in parliamentary elections, are prompting serious discussion in Europe about whether to fashion new policies to meet the perceived threat of rising fascism in Russia.

As a result, Mr. Zhirinovskiy's road show is forcing President Boris N. Yeltsin's government to respond, rather than ignore him and deprive him of the publicity he evidently craves.

On Wednesday, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement emphasizing that the Russian government did not share Mr. Zhirinovskiy's views.

After Munich, it was on to Austria, where Mr. Zhirinovskiy was the guest of a former Waffen SS soldier in a remote village in the Austrian Alps.

His host, Edwin Neuwirth, a 67-year-old businessman, told reporters that he was "proud" to have been a Nazi in his youth.

In a rambling news conference in Austria on Dec. 23, Mr. Zhirinovskiy declared that Russia possessed a secret nonnuclear

See RUSSIAN, Page 6

A Hungry Latin America Awaits NAFTA

By James Brooke New York Times Service

RIO DE JANEIRO — The North American Free Trade Agreement takes effect Saturday, and that event is being seen in many Latin American countries as a first step toward the creation of a free-trade hemisphere.

Overshadowed by the debate over the accord between the United States, Canada and Mexico, the economies of Latin America, a region long gripped by protectionism, have experienced a free-trade transformation of their own.

Mexico is to join a second free trade pact next month. On Jan. 23, the presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela are to sign an agreement that phases out tariffs over a decade, creating a duty-free market of 150 million people.

And with the North American accord's approval, leaders of virtually every major Latin American nation expect Brazil said their country should be next in line to join the North American trade bloc.

President Bill Clinton has encouraged such hopes, saying, "I'll reach out to the other market-oriented democracies of Latin America to ask them to join in this great American pact."

The average tariff charged by Latin American nations to outsiders has dropped to 15 percent, from 56 percent in 1985. This opening has made Latin America the world's fastest-growing market for goods made in the United States.

With lower tariffs, U.S. exports to Latin America rose 27 percent in 1992. Half of Latin America's trade now is with the United States. Of all the Latin American applicants to the

North American group, Chile has the best prospects. Following a free-market, export-driven model, Chile emerged from the dictatorship of the 1970s and 1980s as Latin America's most robust economy.

With expansion at an average rate of 8 percent a year since 1990, economists predict that Chile will reach the living standards of Spain in the next 10 years.

Earlier this year, Chilean officials began preliminary talks with the Clinton administration. And since 1990, Chile has signed free-trade pacts with Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico.

U.S. officials are telling South Americans that the North American Free Trade Agreement is just the beginning.

"Most of it could happen before the end of the year," said a U.S. trade official.

See NAFTA, Page 6

Fashion Note: Dressing Down for Work

By Jay Mathews Washington Post Service

SCARSDALE, N.Y. — As the owner of a commercial real estate firm on Park Avenue in Manhattan, Alan Ginsberg makes, and he usually leaves for work in a well-tailored suit and tie. So why, on this morning, is he waiting for his train in black loafers, olive slacks, a black and olive windup sports jacket and a mustard turtle-neck pullover?

Why not? Mr. Ginsberg reckons that he has

Not a Pressing Matter

Japanese and American companies appear to be on the verge of a technological breakthrough: cotton shirts that require little or no ironing. Page 9.

no public appearances this day, only thinking and writing at the office. The long hours at his desk will pass more quickly if he is comfortable.

The 42-year-old entrepreneur has, without thinking much about it, become part of an evolution in office apparel that is subtly but unmistakably changing the atmosphere of the American workplace and heavily influencing the clothing industry. The suit, once virtually a uniform for businessmen, is now in decline.

Each year for the last two decades, men's clothing retailers have watched glumly as sales of suits have limped along and in many places declined. Some have hoped for some galvanizing event — perhaps a 1930s nostalgia boom —

to reverse the trend. So far they have been disappointed.

"It is amazing," said John Karl, menswear department chairman at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. "When you go into a store, you will see downsizing of the suits area. Lifestyles have changed so drastically."

According to figures compiled by the NPD Group, a market research company in Port Washington, New York, U.S. sales of suits, suit separates and sports coats declined from \$4.2 billion in 1988 to \$3.8 billion in 1992.

Their share of total men's apparel sales dropped from 14.3 percent to 10.8 percent.

In explaining the declining popularity of the suit, fashion experts note the rise of computers, the growing stress on productivity, the advent of women executives and the decline of dress codes in American colleges.

"With so many offices going into electronic status, dealing with people through faxes and computers, there is no need for appearance to be as large a factor," said Jerry Berkowitz,

See SUITS, Page 6

Kiosk Blast Hurts Boy At French Beach

BORDEAUX (Reuters) — A boy was wounded on a beach near Quiberon in Brittany on Wednesday when an explosive detonator blew up in his face. It was the first accident since explosives began washing up on France's western coastline on Dec. 17.

About 5,000 explosive detonators, part of 34,000 spilled into the Atlantic by a Cypriot vessel in September, have been found so far, prompting authorities to seal off France's Atlantic seaboard from the tip of Brittany to the Spanish border.

IRA Will Fight On

LONDON (AFP) — The Irish Republican Army vowed Wednesday to continue its armed struggle against a British presence in Northern Ireland, but said in its end of year statement that it hoped for an end to the sectarian conflict.

General News

"Retirement pregnancies" spur ethical debate after woman, 59, has twins. Page 2. A black activist's inflammatory speech has divided a U.S. college campus. Page 3.

Book Review Page 7. Crossword Page 7.

Dow Jones Up 0.56 3,784.83. Trib Index Down 0.85% 110.99.

The Dollar High 1.7275, Wed. close 1.6995. DM 1.477, 1.50. Yen 111.75, 111.40. FF 9.8855, 9.7919.



Mr. Peres, left, and Mr. Abbas fielding questions Wednesday about their negotiations.

Bomber With a Family Grudge Explosives in the Mail Kill 5 in New York State

ROCHESTER, New York — Three people were being questioned and three others were in protective custody Wednesday after a wave of bombings, apparently targeting one family, killed five people across upstate New York.

The bombings reportedly stemmed from a feud between a former convict and his estranged girlfriend, a member of the targeted family. They were among those being questioned, a Buffalo newspaper reported.

Lieutenant Patricia Cona of the Rochester police declined to identify those being questioned at police headquarters or say whether any were suspects.

Killed within 90 minutes Tuesday night were a couple, their daughter, her boyfriend and a bystander. Six bombs hidden in metal fishing tackle boxes were delivered to four homes, an

armored-car garage and a prison. Four exploded and two were defused.

In Washington, a law enforcement source identified two of the people under questioning as former convicts, Michael Stevens and Earl Figley.

"The motive is unclear at this point but it is probably something like vengeance," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Buffalo News quoted unidentified law enforcement sources as saying the bombings apparently stemmed from a dispute between Mr. Stevens and his former wife, Brenda. Others identified her as his estranged girlfriend.

The newspaper said she was the third person being questioned, but sources did not know whether she was considered a suspect. She is the daughter of Eleanor Fowler, who

See BOMBS, Page 6

PEOPLE Broadway to Broker Actress Goes on Wagon... (Small vertical text on the far left margin)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED

'Retirement Pregnancies' Spur a Wide Ethical Debate

By William E. Schmidt
New York Times Service

LONDON — This week, after a 59-year-old woman gave birth to twins in a London hospital, doctors and politicians here have become startled in a thickening ethical debate. Should governments and organized medicine consider limits on the age at which a woman can seek to become pregnant as a result of human fertility treatments?

The London woman, who has not been identified but is described as wealthy, gave birth after eggs donated by a younger woman and fertilized by the older woman's husband were implanted into her at a private fertility clinic in Rome. Doctors in London had earlier refused to perform the same procedure because they believed she was too old to face the emotional stress of being a mother.

Coupled with news from Italy on Tuesday that a 61-year-old woman treated at the same clinic may soon become one of the oldest women ever to give birth, startled physicians and health ministers are raising the possibility of more such "retirement pregnancies."

It has been technically possible for a postmenopausal woman to become pregnant with donor eggs since 1990, but the number of such pregnancies is still small. Most in-vitro fertilization clinics in the United States will not accept women who are older than their early 40s because of the low success rate.

While such pregnancies are now rare, Stuart Horner, the chairman of the British Medical Association's ethics committee, said the problem might grow over the next decade as the procedure becomes more

common. The Times of London reported that at least 13 women between the ages of 50 and 52 have already undergone similar treatment in the last year at fertility clinics in Britain. At least two have given birth, the newspaper said.

A similar situation took place in the United States when a 53-year-old woman, whose daughter was infertile, gave birth to her own grandchild earlier this year. The ethical issues in that case were muted, however, by its altruistic nature.

"Women do not have the right to have a child," said Virginia Bottomley, the British secretary of health. "The child has a right to a suitable home."

Most of the objections raised by ministers and physicians in the debate are ethical ones, based on the strong belief that it is best for a child to have active, able parents. In addition, critics have argued on medical grounds that such late pregnancies pose grave medical risks to the mother. And because donor eggs are in such short supply, some physicians make the public-health argument that they should be reserved for younger women, where the success rate is higher.

In a few cases, the National Health Service, which provides medical care without charge to all Britons, perform in-vitro, or "test tube," fertilizations. But such cases are based on the physician's determination of relative medical and clinical need and the likelihood of a satisfactory outcome.

Critics say that such procedures for older women should not be paid for by the National Health Service. But even as Mrs. Bottomley proposed a joint effort among European health ministers to explore what she

described as "ethical controls" to deal with potential abuses of the medical technology that has stretched a woman's child-bearing years, others said it was wrong to tell a woman she had no right to give birth because she is too old.

Such proposals to limit pregnancy on the basis of age not only are unfair to older women, but suggest a sexual bias as well, Ian Craft, the director of the London Fertility Center, said in a London newspaper. While it was his clinic that refused to treat the woman who later sought help in Rome, he still said it was not right to impose age barriers for women "when there is no age limit for men."

Peter Bromwich, the director of a private fertility clinic in London, was among several physicians who said he would treat a woman in her 50s as long as he was convinced she was healthy, financially secure and had a supportive family. In that regard, the mother of twins was a suitable subject, Dr. Bromwich said, as she is described as a wealthy businesswoman who has a 45-year-old husband.

The woman had been impregnated in the Rome clinic with eggs fertilized by her husband. The eggs had been donated by an Italian woman in her 20s.

In a column in The Times of London, Sandy MacAra, chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, sharply disagreed with those who say without qualification that a mother in her 60s or 70s cannot provide a suitable home and family life for a young child.

"Relative youth is no guarantee of parental function or competence, as repeated reports of abandoned and neglected children forcibly remind us," Dr. MacAra wrote. "Better, it may be argued, a fit, healthy 59-year-old than an unfit, unhealthy 19-year-old." Dr. MacAra argued the final decision should be left to the physician.

At the center of the debate is Severino Antinori, the Italian gynecologist and a former veterinarian who claims to have helped more than 40 women in their 50s become mothers.

Over the years, Dr. Antinori has become a familiar face in Italian newspapers. In the late 1980s, he was condemned by the Vatican following reports that he had helped a 53-year-old woman to have a child by implanting one of her eggs, fertilized by her partner, in the womb of her own daughter. The physician later denied being responsible for the procedure.

Last summer in The Independent on Sunday, he defended his work with older women, saying there was no reason a woman in her 50s should not have a child. "A man can have a child at that age and everyone says, 'Isn't he clever?'" Dr. Antinori said. "But those same people say that a woman of 55 is a disgrace."

Another of his patients, Rossina Della Corte, 61, told *Il Messaggero*, the Rome daily, that the doctor implanted a donor's fertilized eggs in her uterus three months ago. She said she and her husband wanted a child after their only son was killed in an automobile accident last year. He was 19.

In the sharpest criticism, John Marks, the former chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, said such cases "bordered on the Frankenstein syndrome."

Israel and Vatican Reach Pact on Ties

JERUSALEM (WP) — Israel and the Vatican gave final approval on Wednesday to a historic accord paving the way for full diplomatic relations and potentially transforming 20 centuries of tensions between Jews and Catholics.

A joint commission of Israeli and Vatican representatives approved a 15-point agreement in Rome that was to be signed in Jerusalem on Thursday. The agreement, following 18 months of negotiations, is likely to lead to formal Vatican involvement in the Middle East peace process.

Pope John Paul II and President Ezer Weizman of Israel will appoint "personal representatives" with ambassadorial rank pending the establishment of full diplomatic relations. That is dependent on the accord being ratified by the Pope and the Israeli Knesset, a process that is expected to take about four months.

7 Are Focus of Seoul Arms Inquiry

SEOUL (AP) — A former defense minister and six civilian military contractors have been banned from leaving the country pending investigations of multibillion-dollar arms deals, officials said Wednesday.

Choi Se Chang, who served as defense minister under former President Roh Tae Woo in 1991-92, and six officials of the Daewoo Corp., which arranges arms deals for the South Korean Defense Ministry, will face investigation.

Mr. Choi is suspected of questionable involvement in several arms acquisitions, including the purchase for \$300 million of P-3C anti-submarine planes from Lockheed. Daewoo was supposed to be paid \$4 million in service fees. Actual payments may have been as high as \$29.7 million, officials said. The extra fees, they said, may have been bribes.

Saudi Advisory Council Is Sworn In

RIYADH (AP) — In a small step toward democracy, King Fahd inaugurated Saudi Arabia's new 61-member consultative council on Wednesday.

The council has no legislative powers but can advise the king and his government on public opinion and debate subjects he presents.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is guided by Islamic faith and is not concerned in any way by those who obstruct or question the absence of elections," King Fahd said while swearing the council members to four-year terms. The members were appointed by the king in August.

Argentine Senate Backs Menem Bid

BUENOS AIRES (NYT) — Giving President Carlos Menem a New Year's wish he has long had — the chance to run again for office in 1995 — the Argentine Senate on Wednesday approved a bill calling for a constitutional reform that among other things would allow an incumbent president to stand for re-election.

By a vote of 38 to 7, the senators voted the agreement reached last month between Mr. Menem and his Peronist Radical Civic Union. The same legislation was approved by the House of Deputies last week, 188 to 53.

Mr. Menem has announced an election for a constituent assembly in March to draft and approve the new constitution. It would shorten the presidential mandate from six to four years, but permit re-election for a second term.

Germans Escape Mogadishu Attack

MOGADISHU, Somalia (Reuters) — Somali gunmen tried to ambush German peacekeeping troops in Mogadishu on Wednesday, but German soldiers in an armored vehicle, escaped unharmed. It was the second attack in three days on United Nations troops in the Somali capital.

A German Defense Ministry statement issued in Bonn said the attackers pulled a pickup truck across a road to block the path of the armored transporter.

Meanwhile, 400 U.S. troops left Mogadishu by air on Wednesday, leaving 9,100 U.S. soldiers still in the country.

Illegal Payoffs Set a Record in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Kickbacks and bribes by Japanese companies reached a record high this year, the national tax agency said Wednesday.

The tax agency said unidentified expenditures, which usually went for illegal donations and backdoor handouts, increased 6.6 percent for the first six months of this year to an all-time high of \$9.5 billion yen (\$540 million), compared to the same period last year.

The agency said the total could be far higher because its survey covered only 4,909 companies, or 15 percent of Japanese businesses capitalized at more than 100 million yen.

Bhutto Hails China's Aid on Kashmir

BEIJING (Combined Dispatches) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan accused India on Wednesday of increasing repression in Kashmir and said she expected China's "quiet diplomacy" to help settle the dispute over the Himalayan region.

She also urged the United States to lift sanctions imposed on China over its alleged export of sensitive missile technology to Pakistan, saying that Washington had acted on the basis of "erroneous information."

Later, in Pyongyang, at a banquet hosted by President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, she touched on the issue of sanctions again, this time against her own country. Alluding to U.S. restrictions on the sale of arms to Pakistan because of suspicions that it has a clandestine nuclear arms program, Miss Bhutto said, "It is not fair to cast doubts on Pakistan's intentions and to subject Pakistan to discriminatory treatment."

Zhirinovskiy Rode A Wave of Protest But Voter Analysis Shows Support May Be Temporary

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — A picture of those Russians who voted for the extreme nationalist, Vladimir V. Zhirinovskiy, is beginning to emerge from an analysis of polling data that suggests his electorate will not be stable.

There were two waves of support for Mr. Zhirinovskiy, whose oddly named Liberal Democratic Party secured the highest percentage of party-preference seats in the Dec. 12 election and will have the second-largest block in the new lower house of parliament, the State Duma.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy and his party received 22.8 percent of the party-preference votes, while the pro-government Russia's Choice got 15.4 percent. But Russia's Choice will have more deputies in the Duma.

Yuri A. Levada, the director of the All-Russian Center for Public Opinion and Market Research, one of Russia's best polling firms, said Wednesday that preliminary analysis carried some surprising insights.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy's supporters are predominantly men, but of two very different kinds. And as Mr. Zhirinovskiy's intensive and skillful television advertising campaign took hold, a very different sort of person decided to vote for him in the last few days of the election.

Mr. Levada said that more than a third of Mr. Zhirinovskiy's voters decided to vote for him on election day.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy's original base, Mr. Levada said, was made up of middle-aged and older men, mostly from cities with less than 100,000 population. They worked mainly in the state sector of industry, with average skills and earning average wages. They were, he said, "a sort of low-middle class," with below-average education.

They were not jobless or impoverished. But they worked in a vulnerable sector of the economy — state industry — which was already shrinking and, more importantly, was widely expected to shrink further. And they had large anxieties about the future for themselves, their enterprises and their country. They worried about crime, disorder and "weak government." They missed the greater order and status of the Soviet Union, and many identified themselves with "the Soviet people."

Unlike support for the revived Communist Party, who tended to be older people, retired and on pensions, this Zhirinovskiy base was "the old Soviet working class," Mr. Levada said.

But in the week before the election, Mr. Zhirinovskiy received a new wave of support. This group was much younger, mostly under

Bosnia Battles Said to Kill Hundreds

Agency France-Press
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Hundreds have died in fierce fighting around the central Bosnia towns of Olovo and Teocak in recent weeks, with Bosnian Serbian forces particularly hit, Western military sources in Sarajevo said Wednesday.

Fighting between Bosnian Serbian forces and the Muslim-dominated Bosnian Army, left the number of dead "in the hundreds, notably on the Serbian side," the sources said.

In Sarajevo, United Nations aid officials declared a success a much-delayed evacuation of almost 1,000 Muslims, Croats and Serbs from Sarajevo, an operation that was finally completed in the early hours of Wednesday.

The UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia and the Bosnian press have for weeks reported heavy fighting around Olovo, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Sarajevo, and Teocak, 30 kilometers from the northern town of Tuzla.

Bosnian government radio had frequently reported that more than 1,000 shells a day rained down on the regions, but had reported only light casualties.

Fighting in the Olovo area flared in November, sparking an exodus of Muslim villagers into Olovo.

Sources in Sarajevo added that casualty figures of 5 dead and about 60 wounded in weekend clashes in the Zuc, Kobalja Glava and the Serbian-held Grbavica districts of the Bosnian capital had been grossly underestimated. The sources put the death toll at dozens on both sides.

The 140 Bosnian Serbs evacuated from Sarajevo, meanwhile, reached their destinations Wednesday, the Belgrade-based Tanjug press agency said. Around half opted to stay in the self-styled Bosnian Serbian capital of Pale, the rest continued on to Banja Koviljaca in southeastern Serbia.



A Belgrade man with discarded dinars Wednesday. Hyperinflation soon makes new notes worthless.

Is Loch Ness Monster Just a Fish Story?

By Eugene Robinson
Washington Post Service

LONDON — In all the annual New Year's ins-and-outs lists, add the following: Out: The Loch Ness monster. In: The Loch Ness sturgeon. New research on the ecology of the Scottish loch, among the most comprehensive ever performed, strongly suggests that Loch Ness could not support a huge, long-necked, prehistoric sea monster.

If there is something down there, according to Adrian Shine, naturalist and leader of the Loch Ness Project, evidence suggests a more prosaic explanation: the sturgeon, a fish with a long snout and ridged back that can reach 500 pounds (225 kilograms).

Wayward sturgeon might find their way up the Ness River into the loch, fall to locate mates and then wander back out to sea, leaving in their wake hosts of reported monster sightings.

"These eyewitnesses have not necessarily been mistaken or lying or drunk," Mr. Shine said. "But there ain't any dinosaurs here."

Mr. Shine, who lives and works in Drumadrochit, near the loch, said a set of 14 papers to be published in the next edition of the *Scottish Naturalist*, a scientific journal, will outline new findings about Loch Ness made by researchers from institutions throughout Britain.

One survey, he said, estimated that the loch is relatively barren of fish: in all, it contains probably no more than 20 to 30 tons of fish.

Using a rule of thumb, Mr. Shine said, if there are predators who live by eating those fish, then the total weight of the predators should be no more than 10 percent of the total weight of the prey.

"So you're down to two or three tons," Mr. Shine said. "That's half the weight of one good-sized whale shark."

Assuming that there would have to be at least 10 of the beasts to make a sustainable population, he said, each one would likely weigh no more than 400 to 500 pounds — not small, but not quite monstrous.

A prehistoric plesiosaur — often thought of, inaccurately, as a water-dwelling dinosaur — would have preferred much warmer waters, Mr. Shine said. A seagoing mammal presumably would have to surface to breathe often enough for positive identification.

In Mr. Shine's view, that leaves one likely solution, sturgeon, which live in the sea but come into fresh water to breed and spawn.

He said that from his reading of the local 19th-century press, tradition seemed to hold that there was a huge fish in Loch Ness. "At some point a departure took place between the local tradition of a huge fish and the new tradition of a prehistoric monster," he said. "I call it the media monster."

Quiet Passing of a Free-French Voice

By Barry James
Associated Press

PARIS — In 1942, Pierre Holmes stepped off an ocean liner in Britain and into a minor role in history as one of the rare voices of freedom in occupied France during the darkest days of World War II.

He joined the British Broadcasting Corporation's French Service, and for the next two years spoke over the airwaves to his countrymen under Nazi occupation.

Mr. Holmes, who died recently at the age of 81, was one of about a dozen announcers whose voices brought a breath of hope to the French at a time when deliverance from Nazi domination during the darkest days of the war seemed like a remote possibility.

Defying the law, many listened clandestinely to the BBC, and particularly to the program on which Mr. Holmes worked from 1942 to 1944, a nightly 15-minute broadcast called "The French Speak to the French." The programs were directed by Maurice Schumann, a

journalist and spokesman for General Charles de Gaulle's Free French Forces, headquartered in London.

Those old enough to remember can still recall the thrill of listening to the forbidden broadcasts, which faded in and out as Germans tried to jam them.

They were "like a symbolic reunion every night," said Colette Gerard Burns, a teenager in Paris during the war.

The BBC French-language broadcasts had high military significance, because they included vital messages to the French Resistance about arms drops, attacks and other missions. The messages were in code, or consisted of lines of poetry that were prearranged signals for specific units.

The message heralding the start of D-Day, for example, was a line of verse from the poet Paul Verlaine.

The verse signaled to the Resistance to open a campaign of sabotage and diversionary operations ahead of the Allied landings in Normandy, which took place 50 days ago next June.

"Even we did not understand what we were reading out some of the time," said Henri Korman, a retired BBC French Service announcer. He was for a short time a colleague of Mr. Holmes, his senior by several years, before joining the French forces in exile.

The authorities flooded Paris with leaflets addressed to those who listened to the BBC broadcasts, warning of dire punishment for this "criminal action."

"Consciously or not, in listening and propagating this propaganda, fruit of the Jewish-Communist alliance, you are committing a crime against the fatherland," proclaimed one such leaflet.

To warn people away from the London broadcasts, the occupation authorities placed heavy emphasis on a light diet of home-produced programs. Radio-Paris and Radio-diffusion Nationale competed for the French audience with variety

Ex-Communists Are Reformers, German Says

BERLIN — A leading East German politician said on Wednesday that he could envision his Social Democratic Party cooperating with the former Communist party, the Democratic Socialist.

Manfred Stolpe, a Social Democrat and premier of Brandenburg state, said that the Party of Democratic Socialism, the successor to the East German Communist Party, was led by reformers.

But Mr. Stolpe was quickly condemned by Peter Hintze, party manager of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union.

Mr. Hintze said, "All democratic parties have to distance themselves from extremists on the far left and right."

A Way to Cut Colon Cancer

BOSTON — A long-awaited study provides the first conclusive proof that finding and removing precancerous growths can dramatically lower the risk of colon cancer, the nation's second-deadliest malignancy, researchers say.

Hunting down these growths, known as polyps, has become a cornerstone of colon cancer prevention in recent years. But until now, there has been only circumstantial evidence that it works.

The new report found that removal of polyps reduces the risk of colon cancer by 90 percent.

Colon cancer will strike 152,000 Americans this year, and 37,000 will die, according to the American Cancer Society. It is the second-deadliest malignancy, after lung cancer.

Colon cancer starts with precancerous growths called adenomatous polyps. Various methods of looking for these growths have become routine parts of physical exams for older Americans.

The tests have been performed on the commonsense belief that removing the growths will prevent cancer from developing.

"There has not, until now, been evidence to support that," said Dr. Sidney J. Winawer, the study's principal author. "We have provided evidence that now makes that belief a fact."

The study is unlikely to change medical practice, but it provides reassuring evidence that doctors' efforts to remove polyps are worthwhile.

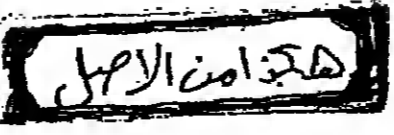
"We have been waiting for this for a long, long time," commented Dr. Helen M. Shields of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. "We are finally supported by data that will stand the test of time."

Dr. Winawer, a researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, conducted the decade-long National Polyp Study with physicians at six other U.S. hospitals. The results were published in the Thursday edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study was conducted on 1,418 men and women who had had at least one adenomatous polyp removed between 1980 and 1990. They were given follow-up examinations, called colonoscopies, for an average of six years.

During that time, colon cancer was discovered in five subjects. The tumors were relatively small and had not produced any cancer symptoms. The researchers calculated that if the polyps had not been removed, they would have found about 45 cancer cases during this period.

The American Cancer Society recommends that doctors perform digital rectal exams on patients annually after age 40. For after age 50, it urges annual tests for blood in the feces, which can indicate cancer or polyps. At this age, it also recommends examining the lower colon with a tube called a sigmoidoscope every three to five years.



STATESIDE / A COLLEGE'S 'PAINFUL PRICE'

A Black Activist's Inflammatory Speech Leaves a Campus Sorely Divided

By Jon Nordheimer

UNION, New Jersey — A student-sponsored speech by a Nation of Islam minister that attacked whites, homosexuals and Jews in mocking and often cruel ways has ignited a bitter debate at Kean College, a state school struggling to achieve racial diversity and multicultural scholarship.

The speech on campus last month has led to deepening tension between black and Jewish faculty members and an exchange of recriminations between the college president, Elsa Gomez, and the New Jersey chancellor for higher education, Edward D. Goldberg.

With a handful of exceptions, the audience of about 140 consisted of black students or black followers of the Nation of Islam. In response to a question, Mr. Mohammed said that when blacks gained political control in South Africa, they should give whites 24 hours to leave and then kill all those who remained.

He also objected that "the leading Kean College faculty and student exponents of Afrocentricity sat in the front row cheering," and he deplored the speaker's "attack on multiculturalism — to him just another manifestation of evil white conspiracy."

Ms. Gomez replied angrily on Tuesday that the chancellor "has been anything but constructive and, in fact, has made it infinitely more difficult to address a number of long-standing issues at Kean College."

faculty members "will punish anyone who has a valid criticism of Jews." In an interview, he said Jews were part of "a white power structure on campus that operates in a covert fashion covered up by the jargon of academia."

POLITICAL VOICES

Court Strikes Down 'Racial Gerrymandering'

SHREVEPORT, Louisiana — Louisiana's congressional districts must be redrawn because they were made to guarantee the election of two black representatives, a three-judge federal panel has ruled.

Louisiana redrew its districts in 1992. It had to eliminate one of its eight districts because census data showed Louisiana's population growth was not keeping pace with the rest of the nation.

Tab for Health Care is Set to Top a Trillion

WASHINGTON — Health care spending in the United States will exceed \$1 trillion next year, according to the Commerce Department.

Health spending will rise \$118 billion, to \$1.06 trillion, and will account for a record 15 percent of the nation's total output of goods and services in 1994, the department said.

A Tardy Clinton Watches Razorbacks Roll

FAYETTEVILLE, Arkansas — President Clinton cheered the University of Arkansas basketball team to a lopsided victory after showing up late because of nasty weather.

"Welcome Home Bill and Hillary," the scoreboard flashed as Mr. Clinton shook hands with many in the crowd at the university's arena.

"I loved it," he said later in the winning locker room, where he was greeted by the Arkansas coach, Nolan Richardson, and players. The Razorbacks, the nation's top-ranked team, defeated Texas Southern, 129-63.

During the game, the president received a round of applause when introduced to the crowd. He sat near center court, and also sat in the box of Don Tyson, the Arkansas chicken magnate.

With the airport at Fayetteville closed because of fog, Mr. Clinton's plane from Little Rock had been diverted north to Rogers — for a 25-mile ride by car to the Arkansas campus. Mr. Clinton got to the game nearly 45 minutes after it began — and with his hometown team up by nearly 30 points.

Quote/Unquote

"What do you all want to do?" President Clinton, on vacation, asked his old buddies in Little Rock. "Let's go bowling," answered David Leopoldus. "You really want to do that?" Mr. Clinton said. "O.K. Let's go."

Away From Politics

Massachusetts abolished a law that said spiritual healing was not a form of child neglect, an act that comes as national opposition to protecting the practice is mounting. The old law had said spiritual healing was not neglect when done according to the tenets of a recognized religion.

The deep freeze continued with more frigid weather from the Midwest to the East, and a snowstorm added to the mix in the East. Record U.S. lows for the date Wednesday included minus 15 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 26 centigrade) in Burlington and Montpelier in Vermont, and minus 3 Fahrenheit (minus 19 centigrade) in Binghamton, New York. At least seven cold-related deaths have been reported since the weekend.

California's second-largest health maintenance organization, Health Net, was ordered by a Superior Court jury to pay \$77 million in punitive damages to the family of a breast cancer victim who was denied coverage for a bone marrow transplant. The damage award was on top of \$12.1 million in compensatory damages the insurer was already ordered to pay by the same jury last week.

A drive-through version of the journey to Bethlehem is offered by the First Baptist Church of Poway, California, near San Diego. It allows visitors to view from their cars eight scenes depicting events surrounding Jesus's birth. The scenes, in the church parking lot, include live donkeys and sheep.

The Hubble Space Telescope will turn its camera toward the Orion nebula and other star clusters in the next two weeks, but the first pictures will only be tests. National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronomers said. The images will show NASA how well the telescope, repaired during a shuttle mission earlier this month, is working and will enable them to make more adjustments to the mirrors. NASA has promised to show the public the first clear picture of a distant star "other celestial object to prove the telescope has been fixed."

New No. 2 at State Department: The First Friend Moves Up



Strobe Talbott at a news conference after his nomination as deputy secretary of state: Helping "in any way that I can."

Promoters Sue Jackson Over Canceled Tour

LOS ANGELES — Promoters of Michael Jackson's canceled world concert tour are suing him for more than \$20 million, contending that an addiction to morphine and other drugs had destroyed his ability to perform.

Munich promoter, filed suit in California state court Tuesday, alleging that Mr. Jackson was hooked on drugs long before the tour contract was signed and that he concealed his condition.

William L. Shirer, Wrote 'Rise and Fall of Third Reich,' Dies

NEW YORK — William L. Shirer, a foreign correspondent and historian, died Tuesday in Boston where he had been treated for a heart ailment. He was 89 years old.

He left The Chicago Tribune and spent a year as a free-lancer in a village in Spain. In 1934, he returned to Paris and went to work as the European correspondent for The New York Herald Tribune. He moved to Berlin in 1935 as a correspondent for Universal News Service. He remained at that post until it was disbanded in 1937.

books that served as warnings about totalitarianism: "Berlin Diary," "The Journal of a Foreign Correspondent, 1934-1941," and his major work, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich."

William L. Shirer was a journalist, broadcaster and historian. He covered the 1936 Olympics from Berlin, he was publicly condemned by Joseph Goebbels' propaganda ministry for exposing Nazi anti-Semitism.

During these years, Mr. Shirer did occasional broadcasts for CBS Radio. In 1937, Edward R. Murrow, the chief of the network's foreign staff in London, invited him to open an office in Vienna to report on the Continent. Turning down offers from American newspapers, Mr. Shirer began a second career as a broadcaster.

At first, William S. Paley, who founded CBS, insisted that Mr. Murrow and Mr. Shirer merely arrange for the broadcasts and use newspaper correspondents to go on the air. As Mr. Shirer noted in his memoirs, Mr. Paley contended that "for us to do the reporting ourselves would be to commit ourselves editorially."

N.Y. Police Can't Police Themselves, Panel Says

NEW YORK — In a harshly critical report, a special advisory panel has asserted that the New York City Police Department has fallen at every level to uphold corruption and has instead tolerated a culture that has fostered misconduct and has concealed lawlessness by police officers.

agreed with police officials who contend that corruption was not systemic, but rather isolated to small groups of rogue officers. But the commission recommended a dual approach to reforming the department.

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Hosokawa's Honest Start

After five bruising months in office, Japan's new prime minister, Morihiro Hosokawa, has lost some of his sparkle. But it is too soon to count him out...

When Old Jobs Are Lost

The U.S. government's traditional response to the problem of unemployment has been to pump up the economy, help provide some benefits and wait for workers to find re-employment mostly on their own...

Tuberculosis Won't Wait

Combine the number of deaths from AIDS and malaria with the other well-known infectious diseases, and they still would not match the number of adults who reportedly die each year from tuberculosis...

Other Comment

UAL's Flight Into the Unknown

In practice, employee ownership has not always worked so well. Famous successes included John Lewis, a British retailer, and Avis...



To us, then ...

A Currency Cure for Eastern Europe

By C. Boyden Gray

WASHINGTON — The big trade agreements of the past few months have prompted rejoicing in the United States, Latin America, Western Europe and Asia...

The lack of reliable currency convertibility reduces opportunities for investment, trade and growth.

For a stable, transferable and convertible store of property values, the best way to do this — and to emulate the best of the Marshall Plan — is to establish currency boards in every East European country...

Is a Great Hong Kong Bust Just Around the Corner?

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — If the world were fair, when the Asian stock market bubbles burst they would bring down with them all the investment bankers, fund managers and bankers on who get up-front fees and absurdly inflated bonuses...

The winners from any crash might be Hong Kongers themselves.

Index from 3,000 at the end of 1990 to well over 11,000 today. Residential property is selling for \$7,500 a square meter, far outstripping affordability...

All They Want Is a Tent and 40 Paces

By Clinton Bailey

JERUSALEM — Is it possible? The same Israeli government that recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization and will make peace with Yasser Arafat is waging a kind of war against Bedouin tribes...

Social Management: Battlefield for '94

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The Year of Social Management. Debates in America, Europe and Japan about the late and financial viability of welfare capitalism should dominate 1994...

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OPINION

Who's Out to Get Clinton? The No-Slack, Bitter Right

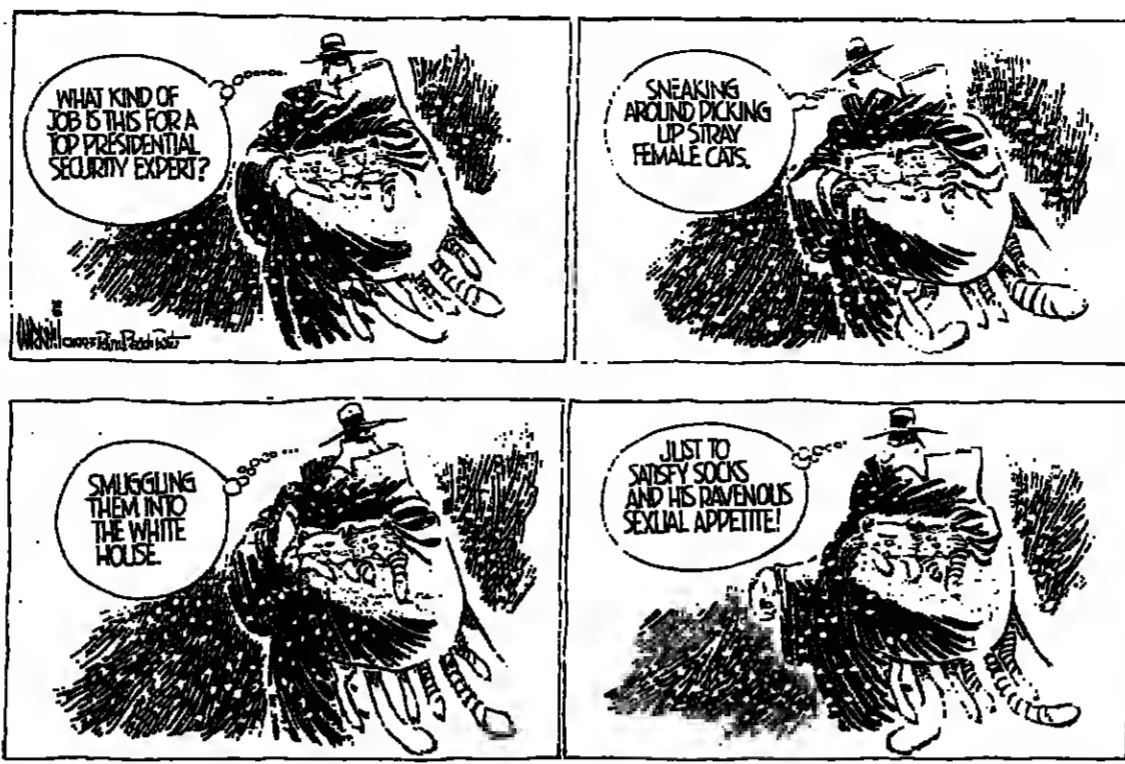
By E. J. Dionne Jr.

WASHINGTON — David Brock, whose dislike for Mr. Clinton is rooted in something other than politics...

I'm talking about the ideological conservatives who would have forgiven Ronald Reagan anything.

nor of Arkansas, in his piece in the American Spectator magazine, the tough-minded, skeptical Mr. Brock has disappeared...

Conservatives have successfully beaten back proposals for universal health coverage since the days of Harry Truman...



On Second Thought, Bozo, Just Call Me Mr. Buckley

By William F. Buckley Jr.

NEW YORK — Some years ago I wrote a column ("Just Call Me Bill") in which I reproached myself for excessive formality...

MEANWHILE

interviews called everybody, with maybe the exception of the Duke of Windsor and his Duchess, by their first name. Accordingly, we use "Mr." on "Firing Line" and "Miss" or "Mrs."...

man. All they had to do was yell "socialized medicine" and the American Medical Association took care of the rest. But suddenly the assumptions on health care have changed...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bosnia: Long Abandoned

Regarding "In Bleak Bosnia Forecasts, CIA Sees Partition Likely" (Dec. 23): This report would constitute an amusing year-end spoof...

starve and freeze — speaks louder than a thousand official pronouncements.

REYNOLD RIEMER, Paris. The CIA specialist on Yugoslavia quoted in this report on Bosnia's probable partition is clearly trying to deny any personal or U.S. government responsibility for that outcome...

A Brave Spielberg Film

In response to the feature "Steven Spielberg Tackles the Holocaust" (Dec. 17): Those critics who attack Steven Spielberg on the grounds that he made the film "Schindler's List" as a way of emotional blackmailing the Academy into giving him the best picture or best director award fail to see the point and the importance of the movie...

only worsened. If the best that can be said is that the level of abuse has stabilized, we are still faced with the likelihood that there will never be any real reduction in the level of abuse or associated crime.

DAMIEN BROWN, Melbourne. While I am often in agreement with Mr. Rosenthal, this time I find myself in opposition with his head-in-the-sand approach to a growing plague...

The Drug Wave Rolls On

Regarding "Giving In Won't Make Drugs Go Away" (Opinion, Dec. 11): A. M. Rosenthal writes that "the drug war is not won but it has paid off. Implicit in this statement is a judgment that current policies are satisfactory, that the "way out" is to continue. But where are we headed? Since President John Kennedy convened the first White House conference on drug abuse more than 30 years ago, the problem has produced one meaningful result: at the same time, the drug war, the overcrowded prisons and the medical care of addicts cost taxpayers huge amounts of money...

produced one meaningful result: at the same time, the drug war, the overcrowded prisons and the medical care of addicts cost taxpayers huge amounts of money.

DAVID HODARA, Geneva. His arguments are weak, and would not survive careful scrutiny. He should go back and study the Prohibition era. Dr. Elders's idea should be tested seriously.

Biblical Life Control

To Frances Tyson's letter of Dec. 23 on the issue of abortion, I would like to counter: "Thou shalt not kill." DIETER REIMANN, Nuremberg.

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China Defends Law for Control of Births

Beijing Says Policy Is 'Totally Different' From Nazi Eugenics

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Staff Writer

BEIJING — Stung by foreign criticism of a proposed "eugenics" law to prevent birth defects, China said Wednesday that the draft legislation unveiled last week would not coerce mothers into having abortions.

"The essence of China's better births policy is totally different from the racist 'eugenics' policy pursued by Adolf Hitler during his Third Reich," said a Ministry of Public Health statement carried by the press agency Xinhua.

The statement dropped language used last week and instead of calling the proposed legislation "On Eugenics and Health Protection," referred to it as a "draft natal and health care law."

As described last week, the law would use sterilization, abortion and bans on marriage to prevent people from passing on mental disabilities and certain diseases, including hepatitis, to their children. The law was designed to "avoid new births of inferior quality and lighten the standards of the whole population," the news agency had said.

On Wednesday a spokesman disavowed that language, saying: "The official English translation of the new natal and health care law will not be finalized until the law is promulgated." Ordinarily, draft laws are adopted by the National People's Congress without any significant change.

The spokesman stressed that the aim of the law was to prevent the birth of people with serious hereditary diseases or mental disabilities. As a relatively poor, developing country, China is a place where such people face severe challenges.

The government said as many as 460,000 children in China are born every year with birth defects and disabilities that could have been discovered through testing before birth. It said there were about 10 million people with similar congenital problems living in China whose births could have been prevented.

While parents in developed countries often undergo genetic testing to detect potential birth defects, such testing is a matter of personal choice and private conscience. The drafting of a government policy in China raised concerns about the degree of coercion involved, a concern exacerbated by controversy over the degree to which coercion has been used in China's policy of one child per family.

Last week, the Public Health Ministry would not answer questions about how the proposed law would be implemented.

But a ministry spokesman said Wednesday in the statement that even if a doctor advised a woman to have an abortion because she was unable to give birth to a disabled or sick baby, the draft law stipulated the termination of preg-



Police officers peering into a Rochester, New York, home where two persons were killed by a bomb.

BOMBS:

5 Die in New York

Continued from Page 1

was killed at her home in West Valley, 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Buffalo, and the step-daughter of Robert Fowler, Eleanor's husband, who was killed along with a co-worker, John O'Donnell, at a garage where they worked in Cheektowaga, a Buffalo suburb.

Pamela Epperson, another of Mrs. Fowler's daughters by a previous marriage, was killed by a bomb sent to her apartment in Rochester. Also killed there was a friend, Richard Urban. And Miss Epperson's uncle, William Lazzare, was wounded in the leg and chest by a bomb mailed to him in Hogansburg, hundreds of miles away in northeastern New York.

The bombs were dropped off by delivery services or by mail in brown cardboard boxes measuring about 3 by 12 by 18 inches (about 8 by 30 by 45 centimeters), authorities said. Inside were metal tackle boxes containing the homemade bombs.

In Cheektowaga, Police Captain Thomas Rowan described the bomb sent there as "an anti-personnel device" filled with shrapnel. "It was made to kill," he said, adding that security cameras at the Armored Motor Service of America depot captured the explosion on videotape.

The bombs apparently were detonated by opening the boxes, several of which carried a return address of The Liberty Iron and Metal Company of Erie, Pennsylvania. The company said it had no idea how the bomber obtained the boxes.

Thomas Constantine, the superintendent of state police, said there appeared to be "some type of a vengeance factor or a vendetta or financial," but he was not sure of which, for many members of the Fowler family.

Another bomb was sent to the Fowlers' daughter, Lucille, who lives in New Albion, 40 miles south of Buffalo, and was defused by the police. A bomb sent to her boyfriend, Scott Kemp, at a prison 50 miles southwest of Buffalo, where he works as a guard, was intercepted.

U.S.-North Korea Talks Quietly Continue at UN

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

UNITED NATIONS, New York — North Korea said it had made new proposals to the United States on Wednesday in negotiations to resolve a dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons capability.

A diplomatic source said the previously unannounced session was inconclusive, with "progress measured in inches."

Thomas C. Hubbard, deputy assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, met for more than an hour at UN headquarters with Ho Jong, North Korea's deputy UN delegate.

Mr. Hubbard would only say after the meeting that the North Koreans had requested the meeting and that "we expect the dialogue to continue." The implication was that the North Koreans were re-

sponding to earlier U.S. proposals for ending the showdown over North Korea's nuclear program.

"We made a very reasonable, acceptable proposal to the United States to quicken the solution of nuclear issues," Mr. Ho said. "The ball is now in the court of the United States."

The State Department, meanwhile, said the talks would be accelerated. "The talks will continue and the pace is quickening," said David Johnson, a State Department spokesman.

The two sides, which lack formal diplomatic ties, have met unannounced several times in the last few weeks at the United Nations. They met twice last week, amid reports of progress.

The Central Intelligence Agency said in a report to Congress that it believed it likely that North Korea has developed one or two atomic bombs. North Korea denies such charges. President Kim Young-Sam of South Korea said Tuesday that while the North wants to develop nuclear weapons, it does not appear to have one yet.

Greek Satanist Group Accused of Killing 2

By Paul Anastasi
New York Times Service

ATHENS — Greece was shocked Wednesday by the official disclosure of a group of satanists who confessed to black magic orgies that culminated in two human sacrifices.

An official police announcement said that four alleged ring-leaders, three soldiers in their early 20s and an 18-year-old woman, had confessed to murdering a 14-year-old girl and a 27-year-old woman in the culmination of satanic rites of worship.

The satanists were arrested on Christmas Eve, prior to the planned Christmas Day sacrifice of another four women.

Greece has one of the lowest crime rates in the West, a fact attributed largely to the perseverance of strong family ties and the influence of the Orthodox Church.

Two of the four ring-leaders were jailed at a military prison on the outskirts of Athens pending their trial, after being charged on twelve counts. The charges include multiple premeditated murder "of a particularly heinous nature," torture, conspiracy, arson and the illegal possession of arms.

These charges previously carried the death penalty in Greece, but the death penalty was abolished last month.

The Athens prosecutor said the two imprisoned satanists had recruited young women to their sect for human sacrifice since 1990. He identified them as Greek Army soldiers, Asimakis Katsoulas, 22, and Manolis Dimitrokalis, 21.

The two other alleged ring-leaders, Haralambos Zambras, 20, also a soldier, and Dimitra Maniati, 18, were still under investigation.

According to the charges, the group carried out rituals in tribute to a satanic god, rituals that mostly involved drinking and sex orgies. They would then restrain their victims with chains and handcuffs, torture them, and in two cases put them to death with daggers and a gun.

The sect's headquarters were discovered on the northern outskirts of Athens, after one of the four girls being offered for Christmas sacrifice broke down and reported the rituals to police.

Greece's minister of public order, Stelios Papathanassiou, said Wednesday, "Greek public opinion must brace itself for the worst. For the investigation will go very, very deep. It will cover many key sectors of public life ranging from the military, the church and the educational system, to the influences of television films on today's youth."

Two More Are Killed In Algeria

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ALGIERS — The bodies of a Belgian and his Algerian wife were found on Wednesday, raising to 24 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since Sept. 21 and the 17th since an ultimatum by Muslim fundamentalists, warning foreigners to leave the country or face death, expired Nov. 30.

The two were identified as Bernard Robert, 45, and his wife, Yekhele Fadhila, 40.

The slayings have sparked an exodus of many of the 70,000 expatriates in Algeria, dealing a blow to a government dependent on foreign expertise and capital for its flagging economy.

The bodies were found a day after armed men killed the poet and writer Youssef Sebti at his farm. Fundamentalist militants have singled out officials, security forces, intellectuals, journalists and, since September, foreigners.

It was not immediately known if Mr. Robert had converted to Islam to marry his Muslim wife. Under Islamic law, a Muslim woman cannot marry a non-Muslim, but Muslim men may marry Christian or Jewish women.

The wave of killings comes amid a Muslim fundamentalist campaign launched after a government crackdown on militants.

Two weeks ago, 12 Christian Croats and Bosnian men, working on an Algerian state-funded project for the Croatian dam-building firm Hidroelektra, were slain at Tamezguida, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Algiers.

Other victims of killings attributed to Islamic fundamentalists since September include three French nationals, three Russians, three Latin Americans, a Spaniard and a Briton.

More than 2,000 people have died since the military-backed government canceled runoff parliamentary elections in January 1992 that the Islamic Salvation Front was expected to win.

On Tuesday, a Muslim fundamentalist leader called on Islamic fighters to continue their holy war, rebuffing offers for dialogue. Abdelazak Radjavi, head of the Islamic Salvation Front's information commission, also called on fighters to unify their ranks. (AFP, AP)

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

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The ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK is an international development finance institution owned by 53 member governments consisting of 37 regional members from Asia and the Pacific, and 16 non-regional members from Europe and North America. The Bank, which was established in 1966, is based in Manila, Philippines. It seeks to accelerate economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region through policy dialogue with its member governments as well as through loans and equity investments, technical assistance and promotion of investment of public and private capital for development.

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Russia Discards Plan For Deeper Army Cuts

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Defense Minister Pavel S. Grachev of Russia said Wednesday that his country's army should stabilize at 2.1 million men and attacked plans by the former parliament to bring the number down to 1.5 million.

The minister said that the government would not act on a law, adopted by the parliament, reducing army strength to 1.5 million, according to comments reported by the Itar-Tass and Interfax news agencies.

General Grachev said the army had already been reduced by about 500,000 men over 18 months and now stood at 2.3 million.

The army, which had 4 million soldiers at the height of the Cold War, will be cut to 2.1 million by the end of 1994, General Grachev said.

Most Western and Russian experts believe that the army already stands at less than 2 million.

"We aren't going to make sharp cuts, we aren't going to hurry," said General Grachev, whose troops have been demoralized by the chaos and setbacks that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union.

President Boris N. Yeltsin has repeatedly showed his gratitude to the army for coming to his defense, albeit reluctantly, and helping him defeat his hard-line opponents in parliament on Oct. 4.

Since then, he has raised soldiers' salaries and pensions, exempted them from income taxes, paid high-profile visits to military bases and scaled back plans for converting factories from defense to civilian production.

Mr. Yeltsin and General Grachev had previously said that Russia should have an army of 1.5 million soldiers by 2000. But General Grachev on Wednesday held the former parliament responsible for that now-discarded plan.

Andrei Kortunov, an analyst with Russia's Institute of USA and Canada, said, "Yeltsin realizes that his positions are eroded and he might need the support of the army."

General Grachev's comments "clearly indicate that the military reform will go more slowly than it had been anticipated," Mr. Kortunov said. (AFP, AP)

RUSSIAN: Raving-Mad Reviews

Continued from Page 1

ar weapon called Elipson, far stronger than the atomic bomb, that could "annihilate the whole world."

Responding to that remark on Wednesday, Defense Minister Pavel S. Grachev of Russia said he knew nothing about the existence of such a superweapon.

The next stop for Mr. Zhirinovsky was Bulgaria, where he sought to go his Austrian performance one better. After arriving on Saturday, he announced that his friend and host there, a Bulgarian businessman named Svetoslav Stoykov, would be the "future president of Bulgaria."

He called for new presidential elections and said the Bulgarian president, Zheley Zhelev, "should retire — let him take a rest."

On Tuesday, when Mr. Zhirinovsky went to lay flowers at a monument in Sofia, an angry crowd of about 500 Bulgarians gathered to jeer him, pelting him with debris and yelling taunts including "Damn you!" "KGB!" and "Go home!"

Mr. Zhirinovsky also had some choice words for Bulgaria's neighbor, Romania, which he called an artificial state composed of other countries' territories and peopled by "Italian gypsies." In Bucharest, the government summoned the Russian ambassador on Wednesday to lodge a protest.

On Tuesday, the Bulgarian government ordered Mr. Zhirinovsky to leave the country within 24 hours. But when he tried to depart Wednesday, he found himself stranded at the airport in Sofia, a victim of a pilots' strike.

According to a Reuters report from Sofia, Mr. Zhirinovsky was left fuming in the airport's VIP lounge. The news agency said he told a Russian Embassy official who accompanied him: "Call Bulgaria's president and tell him he's scum. He takes better care of Russia than I do."

size prostitutes working in Bulgaria but offers no cooperation to Russian deputies.

A spokesman for the Australian Embassy confirmed that an aide to Mr. Zhirinovsky had requested a visa application for the national to visit Sydney, where he has a niece. In response to the rumored visit by Mr. Zhirinovsky, who is prone to anti-Semitic remarks, Australian Jewish leaders demanded that any visa application from him be rejected.

Germany Slams the Door

The German government denied Mr. Zhirinovsky permission to enter the country with seven associates on Wednesday, saying his renewed presence would "prejudice German state interests." The New York Times reported from Bonn.

Officials said the decision was made by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who heads the Free Democratic Party in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition.

"The German government has no interest in having Zhirinovsky make his extreme right-wing statements in Germany," Dieter Vogel, the government spokesman, told German radio.

Condemnation From U.S.

The United States on Wednesday condemned "anti-Semitic, racist" views expressed by Mr. Zhirinovsky. Reuters reported from Washington.

A State Department spokesman said, "Zhirinovsky has a history of inflammatory public statements, and the U.S. government condemns the anti-Semitic, racist and xenophobic views expressed in many of Mr. Zhirinovsky's statements."

NAFTA: Free-Trade Hemisphere?

Continued from Page 1

the century," Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown recently said in Mexico with regard to a Western Hemisphere free-trade zone. "Venezuela, Chile and Argentina should be in the first wave of countries to be considered."

In the meantime, the regional building blocks of a hemispheric trade zone are taking shape.

Customs unions, a dream since the end of Spanish and Portuguese colonial rule in the early 1800s, are integrating major geographic areas: Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean nations and the Southern Cone, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Trade among Latin America's 11 largest economies jumped 28 percent in 1992, reaching \$19.4 billion.

"The free-trade agreements have developed beyond all expectations," said Norani Sanja, foreign minister of Colombia, a nation that is negotiating trade accords with 22 other Latin American countries.

Timetables for tariff reduction indicate that most trade within Latin America will be tariff-free by the end of the 1990s, according to a study released in October by the Latin American Economic System, an inter-governmental organization based in Rio de Janeiro.

"Isolated countries have no destiny, no future," President Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina told a regional financial group this month.

Of the South Americans, Brazil shows the least interest in joining the North American bloc. In September, at a regional heads of state meeting, President Iamar Franco blocked approval of a nonbinding motion of support for NAFTA.

Instead, he presented a plan for the Northern Common Market, a free-trade pact encompassing Brazil and its Amazon neighbors — Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Brazilians fear that under the North American accord, the United States will eventually import duty-free from Mexico goods that are taxed when imported from Brazil — orange juice, shoes, steel and automobile parts.

But, said Carlos Langoni, international studies director of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, the North American accord gives powerful support for consolidating free-trade policies in Brazil.

"In Brazil, there are still many businessmen asking for quotas, for protective tariffs," he said. "NAFTA's approval will make it more difficult for Brazil to move away from trade liberalization."

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See Page 5

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SUITS: A Move Toward Dressing Down for the Office

Continued from Page 1

president of Mister Guy clothing stores in Kansas City.

John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman who has worked for the federal government since 1970, said that in the last few years he had noticed department attorneys coming to the office in jeans and casual clothes "when they know they are not going to be meeting with the public and are preparing briefs or in a long writing project."

"I think we are going through

something called time poverty," Mr. Karl said. "We don't have enough time anymore to enjoy our lives." So office workers use what Karl calls a trompe l'oeil effect.

"You can dress down and pretend you are a little more relaxed, a little less stressful," he said.

Many companies have declared Friday a casual clothes day, leading manufacturers to produce what they call a "Friday wear" line.

"If I don't have anybody coming in that day," said Reiter M.

Tritsch, a principal at Gulfstream Global Investors Ltd. in Dallas. "I'll wear slacks and a T-neck sweater and maybe a bomber jacket." Mr. Tritsch travels often to Europe and sees the same casual tastes taking hold there.

Large sectors of certain industries, particularly West Coast computer and electronic companies, have long rejected ties and coats altogether and coaxed more conservative companies like International Business Machines Corp. in that direction.

TALKS: No Israel-PLO Deal Yet

Continued from Page 1

Palestinians would continue to be handled the same way, by Israel. Palestinians or Arabs visiting the Arab occupied territories would be handled by Palestinians border officials. A third category, including diplomats and senior officials would be handled by both Israeli and Palestinian officials jointly.

But Israel has insisted that it will retain the right to veto what it described as "problematic visitors" and will insist on some form of continuing direct control of Palestinians as it does now, even if they are checked by PLO officials.

For their part, PLO negotiators reject Israeli interference with Palestinian visitors.

The two parties also had widely different visions of the size of Jericho. PLO officials held out for an

area of 200 to 300 square kilometers. Israel offered a region about 50 square kilometers in size. Israel also rejected a Palestinian request for access to the Dead Sea. Instead, it offered access to the town of Uzi, which is north of Jericho, and to a holy Muslim shrine known as Al Nabi Moussa, east of Jericho.

Alert in South Lebanon

Hundreds of villagers fled their homes Wednesday in south Lebanon as Israeli forces and pro-Israeli guerrillas went on alert following the worst fighting in five months.

Reuters reported from Beaa, Lebanon, "Hezbollah guerrillas fired about 80 rockets into Israel's buffer zone Tuesday and Wednesday, and Israeli Army and militia gunners lobbed scores of shells into outskirts of 15 villages where guerrillas were active."

1993 12 30

HEALTH / SCIENCE

Tests for Breast Implant Leaks Held Dubious

By Sandra Blakeslee
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A growing number of medical laboratories are offering diagnostic blood tests to women with silicone breast implants, promising that they can determine whether the implants are leaking, posing serious health risks.

The general strategy in developing these tests is in look for antibodies, molecules that attack and neutralize foreign proteins in the body. The approach is based on a belief held by some researchers that silicone, even though it is a synthetic polymer and not a protein, can touch off the formation of antibodies. They also believe that this process is linked to breast implant complications.

None can predict any specific immune response to silicone, says one researcher.

antibodies are related to silicone, Dr. Kossovsky said. They could be associated with a neurological disease that for unknown reasons strikes women with implants.

Another test measures antibodies that stick to silicone materials, reasoning that the antibodies that stick are specific to silicone. Its proponents say that high levels of these anti-silicone antibodies are found in women with ruptured implants.

Most ideas about how silicone causes disease have not been accepted by mainstream researchers. But Dr. Kossovsky, who has been studying the fate of silicone in human tissue for 12 years, has just published a new theory that he hopes his colleagues will consider.

Described in the December issue of The Journal of Applied Biomaterials, the theory posits that silicone causes disease because it is so sticky that it clogs the system's lymphatic drainage.

These silicone droplets are sticky and oily. Dr. Kossovsky said, and attract proteins the way modeling clay draws ink from comic pages.

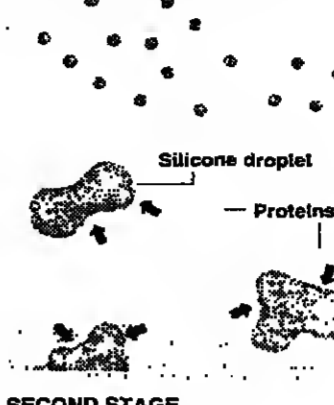
Proteins like albumin, fibrinogen and fibrinogen coat the silicone droplets, which are soon sought out by one of the body's first defense systems — macrophages.

Macrophages are designed to devour little particles in blood and tissues, he said, and go about their job diligently in this first stage of the immune response.

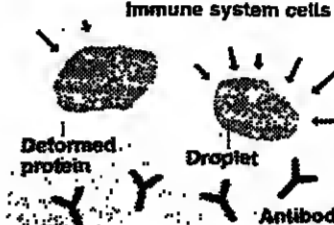
Silicone is particularly adept at arousing the immune system because it readily changes the shape of proteins and invites antibodies to attack. Dr. Kossovsky said. "The best evidence that implants cause autoimmune problems in some patients is that half who get their implants removed get better to some degree," Dr. Ochs said. "Their symptoms lessen or resolve."

Silicone and Rejection: A Theory

Over time, an implant leaks tiny droplets of silicone, which travel to distant tissues.



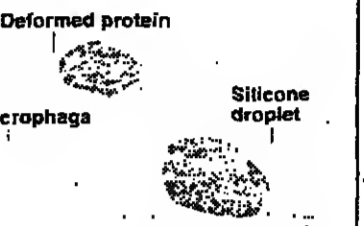
SECOND STAGE
After the macrophage attack has gone on for some time, immune system reserves are called in, causing fever, inflammation, and scarring.



THIRD AND FOURTH STAGES
Deformed proteins invite a more vigorous attack, including antibody formation. In some people, the attack becomes chronic, and is directed at the body's normal proteins, too.

Blood tests that seek to determine whether a breast implant is leaking silicone are based on the immune system's escalating warfare on foreign proteins. Some researchers say silicone collects proteins that sets off the rejection process.

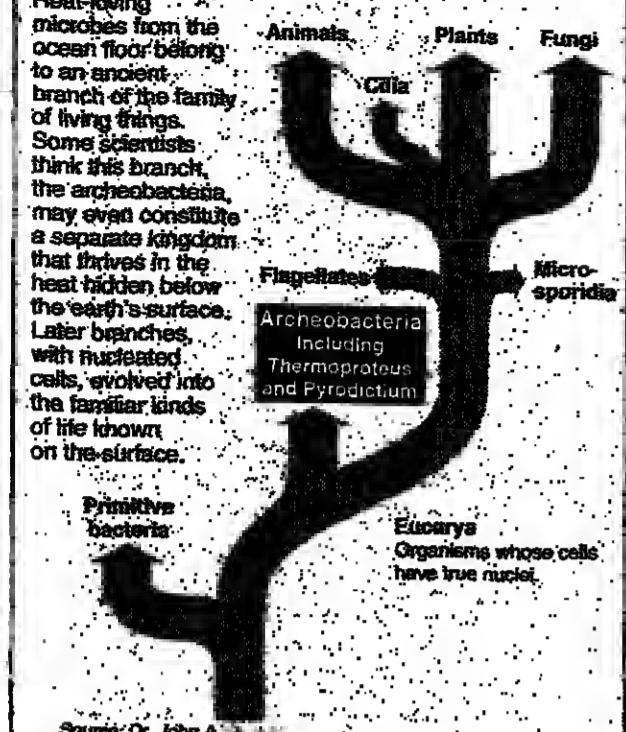
FIRST STAGE
Proteins coat the sticky, oily droplets, which are soon sought out by macrophages, immune system scavenger cells designed to devour intruders.



Deformed proteins invite a more vigorous attack, including antibody formation. In some people, the attack becomes chronic, and is directed at the body's normal proteins, too.

Source: Dr. M. Kossovsky

Revising the Tree of Life



Parallel World? Microbes Teem In Earth's Deep

By William J. Broad
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — New forms of microbial life are being discovered in such abundance deep inside the Earth that some scientists are beginning to suspect that the planet has a hidden biosphere extending miles down, whose total mass may rival or exceed that of all surface life.

What makes the new kinds of microbes so extraordinary, and what has fueled debate over their significance and distribution, is their love of extreme temperatures, anaerobic conditions, and other forms of life. Microbes have been found that flourish at up to 230 degrees Fahrenheit (110 degrees centigrade) and perhaps can briefly survive heat as high as 700 degrees.

Most of these heat-loving microbes are ancient organisms. Some scientists say that they may represent the original form of life on Earth and that similar organisms may eventually be found elsewhere in the universe.

During the past decade these microbes, known as hyperthermophiles, have been found in hot springs, active volcanic craters, vents beneath the ocean floor, and, most recently, oil reservoirs some two miles down. They tend to thrive in areas of extreme heat and pressure, which are general features of the subsurface world.

Some scientists say the microbes may be ubiquitous throughout the upper few miles of Earth's crust, inhabiting fluid-filled pores, cracks and interstices of rocks while living off the Earth's inner heat and chemicals.

Their main habitats would be in the hot aquifers beneath the continents and in oceanic abysses, fed perpetually by the nutrients carried by the slow circulation of fluids like oil and deep ground water. Never exposed to sunlight but thriving in the darkness, the microbes would constitute a strange new kingdom independent of the Earth's surface and its diverse inhabitants, which generally get their energy from sunlight through the process of photosynthesis. In contrast, the deep biosphere would be powered by the planet's inner energy.

"Potentially, there's an enormous amount of biomass down there," said Dr. Norman R. Pace, a biologist at Indiana University who has written about the possibility of a deep biosphere. "The question is how deep, how hot and how much." He added that the odds of discovering a hidden biological realm were fairly good.

NEW YORK — "Winter is lamen in, lude sing Goddamn..." Ezra Pound's lament is about more than a mere annoyance with cold, ice and excess electricity for millions of people who suffer from SAD, the psychiatric syndrome with the all-too-apt acronym that stands for seasonal affective disorder.

Feeling Sad? Hints for Dealing With Winter Blahs

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

Without awakening the sleeper, the computerized gadget emits low-intensity light that penetrates closed eyelids and seems to persuade the brain to shed the winter doldrums and pretend that it is spring.

THE incidence of seasonal mood disorder rises, as you might expect, with increasing latitude, ranging from 1.4 percent among the residents of Florida to as many as 9.7 percent among those who live in New Hampshire.

People with SAD describe themselves as suffering from an energy crisis. They feel leaden and lethargic and have difficulty getting themselves to do things, especially tasks out of the ordinary. Many have trouble waking up in the morning and are drowsy during the day despite a long night's sleep.

zones sink to such emotional lows during winter's truncated days.

Through this understanding and through well-designed clinical trials, enhanced by the application of common sense, have come effective and efficient new therapies, an array including medications, diet and exercise strategies, and most valuable of all, a much-simplified approach to light therapy.

Winter blues, says one of the world's leading experts, Dr. Norman E. Rosenthal, who is himself a sufferer, can now be overcome without having to spend hours each day sitting in front of special lights and without having to migrate to the tropics between September and April.

But tempering that inescapable fact is more good news. "Through studies of many hundreds of people with SAD," researchers are slowly coming to understand why some people who live in temperate and polar

frequent disruptions and a decrease in so-called slow-wave sleep.

SAD patients typically report that their sex drive dwindles and their appetite, particularly for starchy and sugary foods, gets out of control. The resulting weight gain intensifies their depressed mood.

While SAD does not usually show up until adolescence, some children show symptoms of it. They may feel tired, cranky and short-tempered; have difficulty concentrating or doing schoolwork; get lower grades; be reluctant to do chores; experience vague physical symptoms, like headaches and abdominal pain, or have marked cravings for junk food.

The sleep of a SAD patient, studies have shown, is long but not restful, marked by

now at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, the treatment they devised, consisted of sitting for hours each morning in front of a light box that mimicked the spectrum of sunlight.

The therapy was hard for patients to fit into their lives and exposed them to undue amounts of ultraviolet light, which can cause skin cancer and cataracts.

Since then, light therapy has been gradually refined and simplified. Many patients get good results from basking for only half an hour each day in front of a high-intensity light box, which is four times as bright as the ones originally used but does not have the harmful ultraviolet rays.

According to Dr. Terman of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, recent studies have shown that the light should be intense to be effective, but that a full spectrum of light is not necessary. Now the therapy may use ordinary fluorescent light bulbs with an intensity of 10,000 lux, about 10 to 20 times as bright as ordinary indoor light.

Dr. Rosenthal sets up his light box in front of his indoor skiing machine, giving himself the benefit of two antidepressants at once: light and exercise. Regular physical activity, aside from enhancing mood and health, is well known for its ability to instill energy and enthusiasm and is now commonly prescribed for people with depression, seasonal and otherwise.

IN BRIEF

U.S. Observatory Upgrading Its Telescope

NEW YORK (NYT) — With financial assistance from Mexico and technical help from a leading Australian astronomer, scientists at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array radio telescope in New Mexico hope to soon begin making images of new planetary systems in formation.

To make this possible, a major upgrade of the observatory's VLA radio telescope array at Socorro, New Mexico, has received a \$1 million grant from the Mexican government, said David Fienley, a spokesman for the observatory. The observatory is financed by the National Science Foundation, an agency of the federal government, and the Mexican contribution is a landmark in foreign support of science in the United States.

Genetic Pattern Found in Cocaine Addicts

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Two researchers who discovered the first gene pattern common to severe alcoholics say they have found a common genetic pattern in cocaine addicts.

Their study lends further credence to the belief that drug abuse is more a matter of heredity than of values, the researchers. Dr. Kenneth Blum and Dr. Ernest Noble, said Dr. Blum is a professor of pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Dr. Noble is a professor of alcohol studies at UCLA. The two discovered the gene pattern common to alcoholics in 1990.

Their latest study, published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence, found the gene pattern in 50.9 percent of 33 Los Angeles cocaine addicts but in only 16 percent of 100 non-addicted control subjects.

BOOKS

DECIDER

By Dick Francis. 318 pages. \$22.95. G.P. Putnam's Sons.

SACRED CLOWNS

By Tony Hillerman. 305 pages. \$23. HarperCollins.

THE MEXICAN TREE DUCK

By James Crumley. 247 pages. \$19.95. Mysterious Press / Warner Books.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

Ariel Dorfman, the Chilean writer, has just finished Ruth Behar's 'Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story.'

"The riveting story of a Mexican woman, Esperanza and her rage, is paralleled by anthropologist Ruth Behar's own search for identity as a Jewish-Cuban-American. I found this to be a fascinating window on some of the major issues facing us in the world today."

(Michael Balter, IHT)

Reviewed by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

RACETRACKS, the Navajo reservation, Vietnam: these are the subjects with which Dick Francis, Tony Hillerman and James Crumley respectively have come to be identified, and in their latest suspense novels they perform most reliably.

At the start of Francis's "Decider," Les Morris, an Oxford architect and builder, is asked to help save a racetrack in nearby Swindon from destruction by the wealthy but violently feuding relatives who have inherited it.

Knowing he should stay clear, he nevertheless piles five of his six sons, ages 7 to 14, into the family van and drives them out for a look at the track. Before he knows it, he and one of the boys are nearly

kill by an explosion that destroys the grandstand. Which crazed family member could have done such a thing?

As always, his humans are immediately likable or detestable, as his strong plotting directs them. And as always, Francis extends his curiosity to a new interest, here the art of restoring old buildings attractively.

The deeper question posed by the novel is why people take the crazier chances they do, even to the point of endangering their children.

The sacred clowns to which the title of Tony Hillerman's new crime novel refers are the so-called koshare who perform in a Tanoson religious ceremony and serve to remind the audience how far short of God's ideal humanity has fallen.

As Jim Chee, Hillerman's Navajo policeman, explains: "I used to know a Hopi man who was a koshare at Moenkopi. He would say to me: 'Compared to what our Creator wanted us to be, all men are clowns. And that's what we koshare do. We act funny to remind people. To make the people laugh at themselves. We are the sacred clowns,' he said."

One of these koshare is murdered during a religious ceremony, with Jim Chee and some of his friends looking on. Almost simultaneously, a shop teacher at a reservation school is killed, a gay man who devoted himself to helping people and trying to make them laugh. Is there a link between these two deaths of "valuable men"?

Chee does the required gumshoe work and ratiocination, in uneasy alliance with his superior, Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn. But what is captivating about the story is less the thrill of the chase than the clarity of the scenes, the reflectiveness of the characters and, most of all, the way Jim Chee succeeds in resolving a conflict between Navajo values and those of the surrounding society without battering the reader with invidious cultural comparisons.

Where Francis and Hillerman predicate orderly, rational societies in their stories, James Crumley in "The Mexican Tree Duck" descends into a violently chaotic world that can be seen as a legacy of Vietnam, of which his characters are nightmare-haunted veterans. Here, drugs are for breakfast, sex is anytime and panic begins at what the author calls dark-thirty.

In an early passage, one character is described as having bitten off a state trooper's nose and, to add grievous insult to massive injury, chewed it up and swallowed it.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE Fall Nationals of the American Contract Bridge League ended in Seattle, on Nov. 28 with the conclusion of the prestigious Reisinger Board-a-Match Team Championship. Leading into the two final sessions were four experienced professionals, Brian Glubok of Manhattan, Chris Compton of Oklahoma City, Gaylor Kasle of Boca Raton, Florida, and Roger Bates of Mesa, Arizona.

Earlier in the Reisinger, the diagramed deal gave rise to plenty of competitive bidding. At one table East-West competed to six clubs, which could have been doubled and defeated by three tricks. But South persevered to six spades and was doubled.

West was running a very slight risk, with his spade duck: if South had divined the truth he could have made all 13 tricks. Taking the spade king at once would have worked just as well, for a shift to clubs would force dummy's remaining trump and the defense would take two more tricks; however, South continued.

This defense would have failed if South had held the heart king, but East's double of six spades strong suggested that he held that card.

Table with columns for North, West, East, South and rows for bidding and card counts.

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding: North 1♠, South 2♠, North 3♠, South 4♠, North 5♠, South 6♠, North Pass, South Pass, North Pass, South Pass.

West led the diamond four.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Ace depository, 7 Peter Lorre typecast, 13 In no hurry toilly, 16 Inexpensive, 18 Table spread, 17 Humiliate, 18 Twice-fold, 19 Fairy tale kid, 22 Hoodwink, 23 Mosaic piece, 24 --- per-view

BRIDGE

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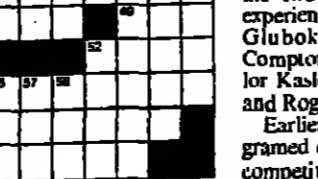
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This defense would have failed if South had held the heart king, but East's double of six spades strong suggested that he held that card.

CROSSWORD

- DOWN: 2 All systems, 20 University of Maine town, 21 Jazz star, with 36 Down, 24 Dating far dollars?, 25 Slums Mother, 26 Heavy bundles, 27 Einstein's birthplace, 28 Inuy 500 occurrence, 29 Humdrum, 30 Vodka cocktail, 31 Coach Holtz of Notre Dame, 32 Makes confetti, 33 Company trademark, 34 Clean water agency, 35 Prada with glitzy or gram, 36 Pinot Chardonnay, 37 Downstars: Fr, 38 For beginners, 39 Armored god, 40 Like many toolbars, 41 Golfers, 42 Scheduled, 43 Reception site, 44 N.Y. slizzer time, 45 Chambré, 46 Kletter of 70's TV, 47 Start, as a computer, 48 Start of a toast, 49 Spray, perhaps, 50 Grandma, 51 Knowing about, 52 Bit of distress, 53 Goggle, 54 Fish attire, 55 Sun or moon, 56 Near riot, 57 This is only, 58 Not discouraged, 59 off (Isold), 60 Anecdotal Bombbeck, 61 See 31-Across, 62 Butler container, 63 Writer at Orchard House, 64 Gullfaw, 65 --- out (ignore), 66 "Be You" (Marm-Jones hit), 67 Romance or act-I, e.g., 68 Pop music's --- Pop, 69 Art deg., 70 Wooler, 71 U.F.O., 72 occupies, 73 --- (joplay technique), 74 Sgt., (or one).



Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 29

LANES BRASE, WAQERED SAUTIED, EDASNER HANOVER, BOWE SPAWIDIE, DONS PEASIE, VRS SRAICE LED, SRAISE AMBER, ILLS PREV, TERTY WORNOUT, CAP HECKLED NAM, OBIT DARED RITE, EBBEN RPM LOFTS, TONIDE IVORIES, DEATED CORREY, BENSE MERDS

NYSE

Wednesday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Dr.	Yld	PE Ratio	High	Low	Last/Label	Chg
120	110	IBM		4.5	15	120	110	115	+5
100	90	Microsoft		5.0	12	100	90	95	+5
80	70	Apple		4.0	18	80	70	75	+5
60	50	Oracle		3.5	20	60	50	55	+5
40	30	Sun		3.0	25	40	30	35	+5
20	10	Lotus		2.5	30	20	10	15	+5
10	5	Novell		2.0	35	10	5	7	+5
5	2	Perseus		1.5	40	5	2	3	+5
3	1	World		1.0	45	3	1	2	+5
2	1	CompuLink		0.5	50	2	1	1.5	+5
1	0.5	CompuShare		0.5	50	1	0.5	0.75	+5

12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Dr.	Yld	PE Ratio	High	Low	Last/Label	Chg
150	140	AT&T		4.0	15	150	140	145	+5
130	120	Verizon		3.5	18	130	120	125	+5
110	100	Sprint		3.0	20	110	100	105	+5
90	80	WorldCom		2.5	25	90	80	85	+5
70	60	Qwest		2.0	30	70	60	65	+5
50	40	Southwest		1.5	35	50	40	45	+5
30	20	Delta		1.0	40	30	20	25	+5
10	5	United		0.5	45	10	5	7	+5
5	2	Northwest		0.5	45	5	2	3	+5
2	1	Allegiant		0.5	45	2	1	1.5	+5

12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Dr.	Yld	PE Ratio	High	Low	Last/Label	Chg
100	90	Boeing		4.0	15	100	90	95	+5
80	70	Lockheed		3.5	18	80	70	75	+5
60	50	Northrop		3.0	20	60	50	55	+5
40	30	Raytheon		2.5	25	40	30	35	+5
20	10	General Dynamics		2.0	30	20	10	15	+5
10	5	Griffin		1.5	35	10	5	7	+5
5	2	Boeing		1.0	40	5	2	3	+5
2	1	Lockheed		0.5	45	2	1	1.5	+5
1	0.5	Northrop		0.5	45	1	0.5	0.75	+5
0.5	0.2	Raytheon		0.5	45	0.5	0.2	0.3	+5

12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Dr.	Yld	PE Ratio	High	Low	Last/Label	Chg
100	90	General Electric		4.0	15	100	90	95	+5
80	70	Westinghouse		3.5	18	80	70	75	+5
60	50	Lockport		3.0	20	60	50	55	+5
40	30	Energy East		2.5	25	40	30	35	+5
20	10	Energy South		2.0	30	20	10	15	+5
10	5	Energy West		1.5	35	10	5	7	+5
5	2	Energy Midwest		1.0	40	5	2	3	+5
2	1	Energy Northeast		0.5	45	2	1	1.5	+5
1	0.5	Energy Southeast		0.5	45	1	0.5	0.75	+5
0.5	0.2	Energy Southwest		0.5	45	0.5	0.2	0.3	+5

12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Dr.	Yld	PE Ratio	High	Low	Last/Label	Chg
100	90	General Motors		4.0	15	100	90	95	+5
80	70	Ford		3.5	18	80	70	75	+5
60	50	Chrysler		3.0	20	60	50	55	+5
40	30	Stellantis		2.5	25	40	30	35	+5
20	10	Chrysler		2.0	30	20	10	15	+5
10	5	Stellantis		1.5	35	10	5	7	+5
5	2	Chrysler		1.0	40	5	2	3	+5
2	1	Stellantis		0.5	45	2	1	1.5	+5
1	0.5	Chrysler		0.5	45	1	0.5	0.75	+5
0.5	0.2	Stellantis		0.5	45	0.5	0.2	0.3	+5

12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Dr.	Yld	PE Ratio	High	Low	Last/Label	Chg
100	90	General Motors		4.0	15	100	90	95	+5
80	70	Ford		3.5	18	80	70	75	+5
60	50	Chrysler		3.0	20	60	50	55	+5
40	30	Stellantis		2.5	25	40	30	35	+5
20	10	Chrysler		2.0	30	20	10	15	+5
10	5	Stellantis		1.5	35	10	5	7	+5
5	2	Chrysler		1.0	40	5	2	3	+5
2	1	Stellantis		0.5	45	2	1	1.5	+5
1	0.5	Chrysler		0.5	45	1	0.5	0.75	+5
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12 Month High Low Stock Dr. Yld PE Ratio High Low Last/Label Chg

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0.5	0.2	Stellantis		0.5	45	0.5	0.2	0.3	+5

INTER Ten

سكدا من الأصل

MARKET DIARY

Stocks Inch Ahead To Record Close

NEW YORK — Stock prices inched up to a record high on Wednesday in active trading...

The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 0.84 point, to a high of 3,793.77 Tuesday...

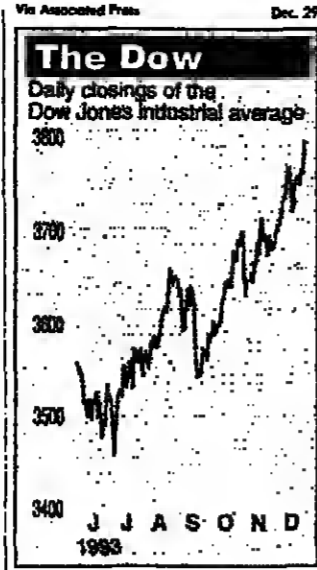


Table with columns: Dow Jones Averages, Standard & Poor's Indexes, NYSE Indexes, NASDAQ Indexes, AMEX Stock Index, Dow Jones Bond Averages.

Table with columns: European Futures, Food, Industrials, Metals, Coffee (ICE), Wheat (CBOT), Soybeans (CBOT), Corn (CBOT).

Table with columns: Stock Indexes, Dividends, S&P 100 Index Options, Market Sales, N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading.

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Table with columns: NYSE Most Active, AMEX Most Active, Market Sales, N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading.

Table with columns: Dow Jones Bond Averages, Market Sales, N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading.

Table with columns: European Futures, Food, Industrials, Metals, Coffee (ICE), Wheat (CBOT), Soybeans (CBOT), Corn (CBOT).

Table with columns: Stock Indexes, Dividends, S&P 100 Index Options, Market Sales, N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading.

RECOVERY: Good '94 in Store

Continued from Page 1. Chip Egan, chief economist at the U.S. Commerce Dept., said...

United States with weak recoveries of their own as they also reform their industrial structures...

Mark Weakens. The Deutsche mark weakened against the dollar and the yen on Wednesday...

Foreign Exchange. Further industrial restructuring and the need to cut the federal budget...

Table with columns: NYSE Diary, Amex Diary, NASDAQ Diary.

Table with columns: U.S. Futures, Grains, Livestock, Metals, Cotton, Industrials, Financial.

SGB to Get Capital Injection

BRUSSELS — Societe Generale de Belgique SA said Wednesday that it would receive the scheduled capital injection...

The cash is the second half of 11 billion francs pledged at the time of the 1988 takeover battle...

Paris. Accor, Alcatel, Bouygues, Bouygues Telecom, Bouygues Telecom, Bouygues Telecom...

Toronto. Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi...

Sydney. Accor, Alcatel, Bouygues, Bouygues Telecom, Bouygues Telecom, Bouygues Telecom...

Tokyo. Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi, Abitibi...

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns: Amsterdam, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Brussels, Johannesburg, Frankfurt, London, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Zurich, Montreal, Stockholm.

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U.S./AT THE CLOSE

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Table with columns: U.S. Futures, Grains, Livestock, Metals, Cotton, Industrials, Financial.

2 Canadian Railroads Plan Merger

TORONTO (Combined Dispatches) — Canada's two national railroad companies said Wednesday that they would seek approval from the federal government...

CSX to Buy 300 GE Locomotives

NEW YORK (Combined Dispatches) — CSX Transportation Inc. will purchase 300 locomotives from GE Transportation Systems over the next four years...

Fruit of the Loom to Cut Inventory

NEW YORK — (Combined Dispatches) — Fruit of the Loom Inc. officials said Wednesday that the company plans to cut inventory levels by moving its manufacturing operations to a four-day workweek...

U.S. Court Ruling Boosts Intel Corp.

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — Intel Corp. has received a boost in its copyright case against the rival chip maker Advanced Micro Devices Inc. from an appeals court ruling that allows a speedier resolution to a series of lawsuits...

For the Record

CompUSA Inc., the largest U.S. computer superstore retailer, said net sales in the second quarter of financial 1994, ended Dec. 25, rose 65 percent to \$537 million from the similar period last year...

U.S. FUTURES

Large table containing various market data including U.S. Futures, Grains, Livestock, Metals, Cotton, Industrials, Financial, and Stock Indexes.

NYSE

Wednesday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press.

(Continued)

Table of NYSE stock prices including ticker symbols, prices, and volume. Includes columns for '12 Month High', 'Low', 'Open', 'Close', and 'Volume'.

Table of NYSE stock prices including ticker symbols, prices, and volume. Includes columns for '12 Month High', 'Low', 'Open', 'Close', and 'Volume'.

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BANESTO: Measuring the 'Hole' in the Spanish Bank's Balance Sheet

Continued from Page 9. Banesco's problems were both Luis Angel Rogo, the bank of Spain governor, and Pedro Solbes, the economy minister, were due to answer questions in Congress on Thursday. The statements about problems in capitalization have surprised analysts, who noted Banesco in August raised capital to 113.9 billion...

Table of NYSE stock prices including ticker symbols, prices, and volume. Includes columns for '12 Month High', 'Low', 'Open', 'Close', and 'Volume'.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

Dec. 29, 1993

Quotations supplied by funds listed. Not actual values quotations are supplied by the funds listed with the exception of some quotes based on issue prices. The marginal values indicate frequency of quotations supplied: [d]-daily; [w]-weekly; [bi]-bi-monthly; [tr]-trading; [v]-very; [p]-primary; [r]-renewal; [n]-monthly.

Large table of international fund listings including fund names, performance metrics, and contact information. Columns include fund names, 12-month returns, and other financial details.

Table of 'Other Funds' listings including fund names, performance metrics, and contact information. Columns include fund names, 12-month returns, and other financial details.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

A Compromise On Tax Cuts Stirs in Tokyo

Agence France-Press
TOKYO — The Japanese government on Wednesday appeared close to a compromise between the biggest party in the ruling coalition and the Finance Ministry over how to pay for trillions of yen in income-tax reductions.

The apparent breakthrough coincided with reports that the bureaucrats who control the purse strings had eased their demands that the cuts be funded by an immediate consumption tax hike to make up for lost revenue.

The compromise, if confirmed, would explain separate reports that the government is preparing to lower income taxes by more than 6 trillion yen (\$54 billion) from as early as January and defer raising the consumption tax, now at 3 percent, for about 15 months, until early 1995.

Finance Ministry officials have insisted that resorting to deficit financing would be reckless in light of their successful campaign to phase out the issue of so-called deficit-covering bonds. In Japanese fiscal parlance, these are distinct from construction bonds used to finance public works projects.

The alternative to deficit financing, that of raising the consumption tax introduced in 1989, is opposed by the Social Democratic Party, the biggest partner in the fragile seven-party coalition of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Attempts to reach a compromise have stalled the announcement of

the tax cuts as part of a new package of measures to stimulate the faltering economy, initially expected to be announced as early as December.

In separate end-of-year interviews recorded this week, however, two cabinet ministers have reportedly stated publicly what Finance Ministry officials have in the past only been prepared to say in private: there is more to government debt than deficit-covering bonds.

"We must avoid general deficit-covering bonds," Masayoshi Takemura, the chief cabinet secretary, was quoted as saying Wednesday in an interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp., known as NHK.

"But there are other things like bridging bonds and short-term government bonds," said Mr. Takemura, who is the government spokesman. "I think it is permissible to use those where we can expect smooth redemption."

His remarks were reportedly echoed by the deputy prime minister, Tsutomu Hata, in a separate interview with NHK. "It's difficult to cut income taxes and raise consumption taxes at the same time," Mr. Hata was quoted as saying. Asked how income tax cuts would therefore be funded, he reportedly responded: "If you say bridging bonds, there may be such possibility."

Japanese media invented the term bridging bonds in 1991 to refer to short-term bonds Japan issued to pay for its \$9 billion contribution to the Gulf War, later recouped through a special corporate tax.

Bottling a Dream in India Businessman Seeks to Make Fine Wine

By Edward A. Gargan
New York Times Service
DODBALLAPUR, India — Just over a rise of stubby wheat fields and around a twist of torn macadam spreads Kanwal K. Grover's dream, a march of granite pillars and wire draped and wound with the leaves and budding fruit of cabernet sauvignon grapes.

His dream is one of revolution: to change the habits of India's upper-middle classes, transforming them into wine drinkers.

"Yes, it's right to say that wine is not a habit in India," said Mr. Grover, majority owner of a sprawling vineyard in Dodballapur, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Bangalore.

"But I say, which wine?" he continued. "Unless you produce a good wine, a wine of international standard, how are you going to judge whether the Indian is a wine drinker?"

A Frenchman, Bruno Yvon, works with Mr. Grover, inspecting production and regularly testing the wine.

He makes no grandiose claims.

"It's definitely not as good as a chateau in Bordeaux," Mr. Yvon said, holding a glass of pale Blane de Blancs to the light. "If you compare what we have here with the best of French wines, we are definitely not there. But if you compare it to the worst of French wines, we are definitely better."

Although there are other vintners in India, including a maker of sparkling wine, they all use table grapes.

"There are wine makers, yes, but one bottle is different from the next," Mr. Grover said.

His own dream crystallized in 1979, when he was in China pursuing his main business, the import and export of machine tools, and met George Vesselle, a wine maker in France's Champagne region.

Over the next few years, Mr. Grover shipped dirt from different parts of India and statistics on rainfall and temperature to Mr. Vesselle for analysis.

In 1983, Mr. Grover and Mr. Vesselle selected 35 vine varieties to test in India.

They bought an experimental plot near Bangalore, said the general manager of Grover Vine-

yards, Abhay Kewadkar, who trained as a wine maker in France. By 1989, they had narrowed the samples to nine varieties and planted three acres (11.2 hectares).

Today, the vineyard has 60 acres of vines. Mr. Kewadkar said, and next year it will have 100.

"We have very good red, light soil and we have lots of sunlight," Mr. Yvon said. "With this system we can have two harvests a year, in the spring and in the fall. This is something I could not do in France."

"This year it's a very light color," he said of the

'If you compare what we have here with the best of French wines, we are definitely not there. But if you compare it to the worst of French wines, we are definitely better.'

Bruno Yvon, a French wine maker working in India.

Japan Says Slush Funds Hit Record This Year

Computed by Our Staff From Dispatches
TOKYO — Unspecified expenditures by Japanese companies, widely believed to include bribes and kickbacks, reacted to a record high this year, the national tax agency said Wednesday.

The tax agency said unidentified expenditures increased 6.6 percent from a year earlier in the 12 months to June, to a record 59.5 billion yen (\$540 million). Japanese law allows companies to pay taxes on certain funds without specifying what the money was used for.

The agency added that the actual total of such expenditures could be far higher because its survey covered only 4,909 companies, or 15 percent of the Japanese businesses capitalized at more than 100 million yen.

Japan's business and political corruption scandals widened this year as dozens of corporate chairmen and presidents were arrested for bribing governors and mayors.

Ichiro Ozawa, a power broker in the coalition government, faced an allegation last week that he received 10 million yen from Hazama Corp. in 1991 after he helped the company win a contract for a dam project.

The tax agency said 70 percent of the unidentified expenditures were found in the construction industry.

Ties between Japanese companies and politicians came to light when an official, Shin Kanemaru, resigned in 1992 after admitting he took illegal funds from a motor-related trucking company.

(AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Asia				
Hong Kong Hang Seng	2400	2100		
Singapore Straits Times	2400	2000		
Tokyo Nikkei 225	2400	2000		
12000	2000	2000		
10000	2000	2000		
8000	2000	2000		
6000	2000	2000		
4000	2000	2000		
2000	2000	2000		
0000	2000	2000		
	J A S O N D	J A S O N D	J A S O N D	
	1993	1993	1993	
Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Preceding Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	11,449.70	11,570.20	-1.04
Singapore	Straits Times	2,426.85	2,392.37	+1.44
Sydney	All Ordinances	2,126.90	2,099.20	+1.80
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	17,272.03	17,131.21	+0.82
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,231.86	1,223.05	+0.72
Bangkok	SET	1,668.83	1,652.69	+0.96
Seoul	Composite Stock	Closed	868.18	-
Taipei	Weighted Price	5,538.07	5,501.75	+0.66
Manila	Composite	3,196.08	3,165.65	+0.96
Jakarta	Stock Index	587.88	572.57	+2.67
New Zealand	NZSE-40	2,155.79	2,108.33	+2.25
Bombay	National Index	Closed	1,620.25	-

Sources: Reuters, AFP
 International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- South Korea's Securities Advisory Board said foreigners invested \$7.5 billion in the stock market in 1993, more than double the 1992 amount.
 - Bank of Korea said South Korean industries invested \$1.45 billion abroad in the first 11 months of 1993, up 33 percent from 1992; much of the rise was due to a near-tripling of investment in China, to \$551 million.
 - Shanghai-Volkswagen Automotive Co., Volkswagen AG's Chinese joint venture, produced more than 100,000 Santana cars in 1993, up from 65,000 units in 1992 and 35,000 in 1991.
 - Nissho Iwai Corp. won separate orders totaling 6.5 billion yen (\$58.4 million) with Sanyo Chemicals of Italy and Technip SA of France to build plants for making chemicals for fertilizer in China.
 - PT PANN, an Indonesian state company, is negotiating to buy 32 second-hand Boeing 737-200s from Lufthansa for about \$260 million.
- Reuters, AFP, APF

SHIRT: U.S. and Japanese Technology Is Ironing Out a Pressing Problem

Continued from Page 9
Cotton Inc., a marketing and research organization in New York that represents American cotton growers.

Still, some specialists, despite their enthusiasm for the no-iron, all-cotton ideal, cautioned that wearing was believing.

"We've had three generations of failures of no-iron," said Hiro Okamoto, president of International Textile Management Consulting Co. in New York, who is the licensing agent in the United States and Asia for an American process to make clothing wrinkle-free. "If it doesn't absorb water, if it wick and if it emits formaldehyde and turns yellow after 20 washes, it doesn't make sense."

Because shirts are made of thin fabric, compared with most other clothes, they represent the ultimate no-iron challenge. That is why the processes being used in the new all-cotton shirts have been honed on thicker clothing.

In the United States, for example, Hagar Apparel Co., Farah Inc. and others have had great suc-

cess in the last year selling all-cotton slacks that resist wrinkling.

But it was the Japanese who were first out of the armoire with no-iron shirts, introducing the half-cotton, half-polyester versions that are said to be superior to previous cotton-polyester incarnations and to need no ironing even after 20 washes.

They have had brisk sales since their introduction, and they have been one of the hit products of the year-end gift-giving season here. The shirts sell for \$40 to \$75, or about \$10 to \$20 more than regular dress shirts in Tokyo.

In Japan, where domestic chores are still divided largely along traditional gender lines, the shirts are proving popular not only with housewives, who hate to iron, but also with salarymen, who on business trips can now wash a shirt in the sink, hang it up to dry and wear it the next day.

As for the recently introduced all-cotton versions, Choya Corp. is selling them for about \$70. This spring in the United States, all-cotton wrinkle-free Arrow shirts may sell for \$35 to \$40 — the same

price as current cotton Arrows — said Mary Alice Kelly, executive vice president of Chett Peabody Shirts, the company that owns Arrow.

Shirt scientists, as it turns out, have a scale for classifying wrinkles, with 1 being the equivalent of a withering prune and 5 representing a state of grace a laundryman might hope to achieve on a good day. The standard measurement is taken after five cycles of washing and tumble drying.

Untreated cotton typically has a rating of about 1 or a little better. A conventional cotton-polyester blend ranks somewhere between 3 and 3.5. The half-cotton, half-polyester no-iron shirts now sweeping Japan have been known to hit 4.

The new all-cotton shirts made with Nishinbo's process have a rating of 3.5, which means some light ironing may be required. In the United States, companies are aiming to develop all-cotton shirts with a durable-press rating of 4, although the technique will be limited at first to Oxford, a heavy type of cotton fabric.

"The 3.5 you have to touch up; the 4 you don't," Mr. Strahl of Cotton Inc. said.

Some clothing executives say that if cotton shirts can be made resistant to wrinkling and shrinkage, many people who now wear cotton-polyester blends will switch to the natural fiber.

But other executives say wrinkle-resistant cotton may have a negligible impact on the American shirt market because people who are willing to spend more to wear all-cotton shirts tend to have them laundered anyway and do not care about ironing. Like today's cotton, the no-iron variety will still be more expensive than blends.

Why does cotton wrinkle? Normally, the cellulose that provides the skeleton for cotton fibers is linked into long chains that give the fibers strength. But in some parts of the fiber, the cellulose molecules tend to have weak or missing links. When the garment is washed, the fibers swell with water and deformities occur at the weak links.

YUAN: China to Float Currency

Continued from Page 1
 she expected the change to help foreign investors in China.

"It basically removes the buffer between China's domestic market and the outside world," said Annabel Betz, an economist with Baring Securities in Hong Kong.

The substantial difference between the two exchange rates has amounted to a significant subsidy for some Chinese industries, most of them state-owned, which import foreign goods and raw materials and which have access to currency at the official rate. At the same time, the rates have penalized foreign businesses and investors unable to convert dollars to yuan in the swap markets.

"Many people have been obliged to convert funds at the official rate and accept an immediate foreign exchange loss," said Anthony Russell, Hongkong & Shanghai Bank's area manager for China. "It has definitely been an obstacle to foreign investment."

The Chinese central bank made clear that it, like other nations' central banks, was not ceding total

control of its currency. It said it would intervene in the market to keep rates stable.

While the move toward a floating currency implies a devaluation of the yuan, analysts said the change may have only limited effect on China's inflation, which hit 14.5 percent nationwide and 19.5 percent in major cities this year.

Taiwan Backs Asia Cable Plan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
TAIPEI — Taiwan officials on Wednesday approved a \$73.67 million investment in a project to build Asia's longest telecommunications cable network, connecting nine countries.

The Asia Pacific Cable Network will link Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. They will share the

estimated \$684 million cost of the broad-band, 11,000-kilometer (6,800-mile) network, said the Council for Economic Planning and Development, a cabinet-level agency.

Construction of the cable, which will contain 60,000 telephone circuits, will begin next year and is expected to be completed in early 1997, officials said.

(AP, AFP)

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Herald Tribune

AMEX									
Wednesday's Closing									
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press									
12 Month High	12 Month Low	Div	Yld	PE	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low	Latest Chg	12 Month High	12 Month Low
120	100	1.00	4.00	15.00	120	100	+1.00	120	100
150	130	1.50	4.50	15.00	150	130	+1.50	150	130
200	180	2.00	5.00	15.00	200	180	+2.00	200	180
250	230	2.50	5.50	15.00	250	230	+2.50	250	230
300	280	3.00	6.00	15.00	300	280	+3.00	300	280
350	330	3.50	6.50	15.00	350	330	+3.50	350	330
400	380	4.00	7.00	15.00	400	380	+4.00	400	380
450	430	4.50	7.50	15.00	450	430	+4.50	450	430
500	480	5.00	8.00	15.00	500	480	+5.00	500	480
550	530	5.50	8.50	15.00	550	530	+5.50	550	530
600	580	6.00	9.00	15.00	600	580	+6.00	600	580
650	630	6.50	9.50	15.00	650	630	+6.50	650	630
700	680	7.00	10.00	15.00	700	680	+7.00	700	680
750	730	7.50	10.50	15.00	750	730	+7.50	750	730
800	780	8.00	11.00	15.00	800	780	+8.00	800	780
850	830	8.50	11.50	15.00	850	830	+8.50	850	830
900	880	9.00	12.00	15.00	900	880	+9.00	900	880
950	930	9.50	12.50	15.00	950	930	+9.50	950	930
1000	980	10.00	13.00	15.00	1000	980	+10.00	1000	980

SPORTS

Sonics Top Rockets to Go To the Head of the Class

The Associated Press
 There's a new "best" team in the National Basketball Association.
 The Seattle SuperSonics replaced the Houston Rockets as the team with the highest winning percentage — at .875 with a 21-3 record — after a 112-97 victory Tuesday night in Seattle in which Gary Payton and Ricky Pierce each scored 25 points.
 The Rockets, who have lost three of their last four, slipped to 23-4 and .852.
 "We're both among the elite teams in the league," said Payton after Seattle raised its record to 13-1 at home, the only loss an 87-86 setback against Phoenix on Thursday — after a 112-97 victory Tuesday night in Seattle in which Gary Payton and Ricky Pierce each scored 25 points.
 The Rockets, playing their fourth game in six days, were without a key reserve, Scott Brooks, who was out with flu.
 "It was frustrating because we responded in the beginning," Houston's center, Hakeem Olajuwon, said. "In a game like this, whichever team plays the smartest is going to win."
 The Sonics led by 30 points three times in the second quarter. But the Rockets battled back to get to 84-81 with 10:26 left before the Sonics scored the next 11 points for a 95-81 lead with 7:15 to go. Pierce scored on 15 and 15-footers and two free throws. The spurt also included Payton's 3-pointer — from his second of the season — only

about 25 feet as time was running out on the 24-second clock.
 Olajuwon scored 34 points for the Rockets, who are now 13-3 on the road this season. He hit 16 of 21 shots from the floor, had 10 rebounds and blocked four shots.
 Nets 97, Knicks 95: Derrick Coleman and Kenny Anderson scored nine points during a late 10-0 run that helped New Jersey end its eight-game road losing streak.
 The Knicks, whose six-game winning streak at Madison Square Garden ended, nearly overcame a four-point deficit in the final 11 seconds. But Patrick Ewing, on the free-throw line with the score 97-95 and 0.2 seconds left, was off the mark on his first foul shot before missing his second intentionally.
 Coleman, who had 30 points and 13 rebounds, had a 3-pointer and two free throws, while Anderson scored four points during the 10-0 spurt that turned a 92-86 deficit into a 96-92 lead. Anderson finished with 21 points and 12 assists.
 Spurs 84, Heat 76: Eric (Sleepy) Floyd woke up the lethargic San Antonio offense with 15 fourth-quarter points in Miami.
 Floyd, who totaled 19 points, scored nine during a 11-4 run that opened the fourth quarter, and the Heat was never able to again get closer than four points.
 Despite sitting out warmups with the flu, David Robinson led San Antonio with 20 points and 16

rebounds, while Dennis Rodman had 15 rebounds.
 Hawks 119, Pistons 101: Mookie Blaylock scored 19 points and Duane Ferrell, replacing the injured Dominique Wilkins, scored 18 as Atlanta bounced back from two straight losses to beat visiting Detroit.
 Ferrell and Blaylock, who also had 12 assists, were among six Atlanta players in double figures as the Hawks got their 11th win in 12 home games this year and 17th of their last 20 overall.
 Cavaliers 127, Hornets 115: Gerald Wilkins scored 29 points, with a key 3-pointer in overtime, as Cleveland beat visiting Charlotte for its fifth straight victory.
 The Hornets, without Larry Johnson, out for the game with a strained back, also lost Alonzo Mourning to fouls late in the fourth quarter. Cleveland then dominated the extra period, 16-4, as Charlotte remained winless in 12 trips to the RICHFIELD Coliseum.
 Brad Daugherty scored 28 points, 22 in the first half, while Mourning led Charlotte with 24 points.
 Dell Curry added 23 and Eddie Johnson, who went over 17,000 career points in his 13th NBA season, 19. Curry made five 3-pointers, four of them in a 16-point fourth period.
 Nuggets 97, Mavericks 85: Bryant Stith scored 21 points, making all 15 of his free throws, as Denver downed Dallas, extending the worst home start in NBA history to 13 straight losses.

NBA HIGHLIGHTS



Detlef Schrempf temporarily stopped Hakeem Olajuwon, albeit with a foul, as the Sonics brought down the Rockets, 112-97.

Tournament Is All Indiana's Despite Injuries to 2 Players

The Associated Press
 INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana may have paid a big price for its 12th consecutive Hoosier Classic championship.
 The 13th-ranked Hoosiers played most of the second half of Tuesday night's championship game in Indianapolis with only eight players in uniform when Todd Leary and Brian Evans were injured. But Indiana held on to defeat No. 25 Western Kentucky, 65-53.
 The two players' status for Indiana's Big Ten opener Jan. 8 against Penn State was uncertain because Indiana's coach, Bob Knight, would not talk to the media afterward and did not send a member of his staff to be interviewed.
 Pat Graham, no stranger to injury after missing most of two seasons with fractures in his feet, and fellow senior Damon Bailey scored Indiana's final 18 points of the game, with Graham getting 10 of his 20 points in the final minutes.
 Bailey, selected the tournament's most valuable player for the second consecutive year, had a game-high 24 for the second consecutive night.
 "You're going to have to take some lumps in a game. We just sort of buddled around that and came through," Graham said.
 Leary, in his first start of the season, sprained his right knee in the first half. Evans dislocated his right shoulder early in the second half.
 Western Kentucky (4-3), which trailed by 38-21 early in the second half, cut the deficit to 45-43 on Chris Robinson's two free throws with 11:40 to play. But Indiana (7-2) responded with a 14-3 spurt to take a 59-46 lead.
 Western Kentucky shot only 36.4 percent and had 22 turnovers that led to 22 Indiana points. Chris Robinson, who led the Hilltoppers with 16 points, fouled out with 7:24 to play.
 No. 1 Arkansas 129, Texas Southern 63: With President Bill Clinton in attendance, the Razorbacks (8-0) cruised to a 59-22 halftime lead over the visiting Tigers (3-7) and had it up to 74-24 two minutes after intermission. Davor Rimac led Arkansas, which made a school-record 20 3-pointers in 36 attempts, with 18 points.
 No. 5 Kentucky 110, San Francisco 83: Travis Ford had 27 points to lead the Wildcats (8-1) to their 27th straight victory at home. The Dons (7-2), who had won seven straight, were within 71-68 with 9:07 left when Kentucky went on a 12-3 spurt and took leads as big as 30 points. Orlando Smart led San Francisco with 22 points.
 No. 7 Michigan 102, Auburn 81: Jimmy King scored 22 points to lead the Wolverines (7-1) in the opening round of the Fiesta Bowl Classic in Tucson, Arizona, where they will play host Arizona for the title Thursday night. Jason Rose had 21 points and Inan Howard added 20 for Michigan; Wesley Person had 22 to lead the Tigers (4-3).
 No. 8 UCLA 81, North Carolina 75: In a game to mark the 20th anniversary of an NCAA semifinal between the schools, the visiting Bruins (7-0) had their closest game of the season. UCLA had a 67-52

lead with 8:49 left only to see the Wolfpack (4-5) get within 75-71 with 1:23 to play. Ed O'Bannon manched his season-high with 24 for the Bruins, while Lewis Sims topped the Wolfpack with 14 points.
 No. 9 Massachusetts 91, Hartford 62: The Minutemen (8-1) playing at home, returned from a 16-day layoff with an easy win in the opening round of their Abbot's Hall of Fame Classic. Mike Williams had 21 points to lead Massachusetts, which will meet Maryland in the title game.
 No. 11 Louisville 76, Cal State Barbara 53: Center Clifford Rozier

Virginia 62, No. 16 Minnesota 57: Junior Burrough got 22 points as the Cavaliers (4-3) won despite making only five of nine free throws in the last 2:30. The visiting Golden Gophers (7-3) had a five-game winning streak snapped as leading scorer Voshon Lenard got just six points before fouling out.
 No. 18 Cincinnati 84, Robert Morris 59: The host Bearcats (9-2), despite a sloppy game, won with 18 points each from reserves Darnell Burton and LaZelle Durden.
 Florida 74, No. 20 Oklahoma St. 69: Demetri Hill had a career-high 23 points as the Gators (8-1) won in the Rainbow Classic. A 24-run by the Cowboys (7-3) got them to 59-58 with 6:44 left, but not closer. Brooks Thompson had 21 points for Oklahoma State, which got a career-low four points from center Bryant Reeves.
 New Orleans 63, No. 21 George Washington 60: Gerald Williams had 12 points and came up with the game's biggest rebound, of a teammate's missed free throw with six seconds left, to give the Privateers (6-2) the title in the 46th and last Sugar Bowl tournament in New Orleans. Yinka Dare, a 7-foot-1 sophomore center, had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Colonials (6-2), but 6-8 center Melvin Simon came up big for New Orleans with 21 points and 13 rebounds.
 No. 24 Marquette 73, N. Illinois 58: Robb Logtermann was 5-for-6 from 3-point range and had 23 points to lead the visiting Warriors (7-2).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

A Quiet Coach Has Hawks Soaring

By Harvey Araton
 New York Times Service
 BOSTON — Dominique Wilkins was annoyed. That was obvious to Lenny Wilkins, and everyone else in Boston Garden, from the start.
 He had been in a bad shooting slump. He had a sore ankle and began the game against the Celtics bothered by a head cold and the fact that on the Atlanta Hawks' first few possessions, he couldn't get his richy fingers on the ball.
 Mookie Blaylock was dribbling out near the key. Wilkins ran toward him with his hands out. Blaylock dribbled the other way and hoisted a jumper that missed. Wilkins turned, facing the Hawks' bench, and cursed. He didn't exactly sprint back on defense. Soon, without fuming or fuss, Lenny Wilkins called him to the bench.
 The tranquil-looking coach knew it was going to be a stomach-churning night with the 33-year-old scorer. Wilkins happens to be in the last year of his \$3.5 million contract. That's bound to exacerbate any game-night situation when Wilkins isn't in the offensive flow.
 When Wilkins wasn't in the game, the Hawks' ball movement was noticeably improved. But he is still their marquee player. Their ultimate chance to challenge the New York Knicks and the Chicago Bulls in the Eastern Conference is linked to him. Thus the coach's dilemma in Boston was to figure out how to get Wilkins through the night, extract something positive from his game, without letting him drag the Hawks down.
 For years, the Hawks have been Dominique's team. Their reputation has been a reflection of Dominique's, an exciting highlight film, with no substantive core. When Wilkins's career alarm started ringing last

spring in Cleveland, where he had helped rebuild a horrendous team into a contender that couldn't beat Michael Jordan, he headed for Atlanta. People wondered why this scholarly basketball teacher would choose what seemed to be an incorrigible class.
 The season began. The Hawks lost four of five. They won a couple more, a few after that. Suddenly they were playing defense, trapping, hustling. Their offense was no longer Wilkins arguing with 7-foot Kevin Willis over who got to post up and demand the ball. Their

He was Atlanta's second choice after Rick Pitino. Had the Hawks gotten Pitino, there would have been much glorious hype about Pitino's system, how his mere presence, like Pat Riley's in New York, would whip the Hawks into shape. In London, after the Hawks put on an embarrassing exhibition display, Wilkins knew what his many friends in the league were saying.
 "Poor Lenny," he said.
 He understands why, to a point. His entire career, as coach and Hall of Fame player, has been spent in places like St. Louis, Portland, Seattle and Cleveland. Wilkins has always demanded time for family, for reading, for hiking up mountains. He never cared to lecture the corporate lunch crowd. He never wanted basketball to be his whole life.
 Americans prefer obsessive workers in sports. Coaches who watch film all night are somehow better. When Wilkins was the point guard for Bill Fitch, Captain Video, he was asked to sit through thousands of pick-and-roll screenings. "I'd fall asleep," he said.
 Believe it or not, when Wilkins was player-coach years ago in Portland, he said he screamed his head off. He realized one thing. "No one heard me," he said.
 Not much was getting through to Dominique in Boston. He shot miserably, 6 for 21. He briefly cost the Hawks a fourth-quarter lead with a handful of terrible shots. At that point, Wilkins called timeout. His voice loud as loud as it gets, he said: "We take control of this game right here." He diagrammed a play for Willis on the low post. Willis hit a jump hook. The Hawks kept going back, again and again. They were soon in control. The night was won.
 The star's feelings? Wilkins privately told someone not to worry about Dominique. "I'll get him back," he said.

Sometime next year, Lenny Wilkins will become the pro basketball coach with the most career victories.

Bank's Problems In Spain Imperil Funds for Sports

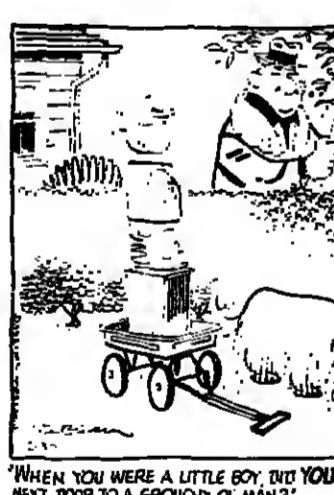
Reuters
 MADRID — Three-time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain, the Real Madrid soccer club, four top basketball teams and rally driver Carlos Sainz could all be affected by the financial crisis at Banco Espanol de Credito-Banesto SA.
 The Bank of Spain announced Tuesday it is intervening in Banesto because of financial problems the bank, one of Spain's biggest, was unable to resolve alone.
 The bank's biggest sporting venture is with the Banesto cycling team, whose leader, Indurain, is the highest paid rider in the world.
 That sponsorship costs the bank more than 2 billion pesetas (\$15.2 million) a year, plus the contract of Indurain, winner of the last three Tour de France races, as well as the last two Giro in Italy. He gets 350 million pesetas a year.
 Cycling sponsorship costs were due to rise next year, with Banesto taking over Spain's Seguros Amaya cycling team.
 But Banesto's sporting influence spreads much further, with a subsidiary company in charge public relations at the Real Madrid soccer club, as well as similar relationships with the four basketball clubs Real Madrid, Barcelona, Joventut and Estudiantes.
 Through its Dorna affiliate, Banesto co-sponsors double world rally champion Sainz, this season racing with the Subaru team, and world trial champion Jordi Tarres.

Giants' Williams Signs \$30 Million, 5-Year Deal

The Associated Press
 NEW YORK — Matt Williams didn't have to test major league baseball's free-agent market to reap the benefits.
 The San Francisco Giants signed him to a \$30.75 million, five-year contract Tuesday that made the National League's top-earning third baseman the majors' highest paid player in the eight-year period before he would qualify for free agency.
 Williams came back from a subpar 1992 season to hit .294 in 1993, an increase of 67 points from the previous season, and 53 points above his career average. Signed through the 1998 season, he will make an average of \$6.15 million a year, second on the Giants behind Barry Bonds (\$7,291,667), baseball's highest paid player.
 By reaching a long-term agreement, Williams and the Giants avoided having to go to arbitration this season.
 The club also bound the two-time Gold Glove winner for another four seasons when he otherwise would have been eligible for free agency.
 Catcher Chris Hoiles and the Baltimore Orioles agreed to a \$2 million, one-year contract, nearly a sixfold increase from his 1993 salary of \$350,000, and outfielder Dar-

in Jackson and the Chicago White Sox agreed to a \$750,000, one-year deal that gives him the chance to make another \$750,000 in performance bonuses.
 Outfielder Jesse Barfield and Houston agreed on the outline of a minor-league contract, that gives him a \$100,000 signing bonus and the chance for a \$250,000 big league deal that would have \$641,000 in bonus opportunities.
 Pitcher Greg W. Harris and the Colorado Rockies also agreed to a one-year deal, leaving 115 players eligible to file for salary arbitration from Jan. 5-14.
 Brian Taylor, the 22-year-old left-hander taken first by the New York Yankees in the 1991 amateur draft and signed for a record \$1.55 million bonus, won't pitch in 1994 following arthroscopic surgery on his pitching shoulder, the team said.
 He injured the shoulder during a bar fight Dec. 18 near his home in Beaufort, North Carolina, and faces misdemeanor charges of simple assault and communicating threats. He is due to appear in court Jan. 13.
 Dr. Frank Jobe, the Los Angeles Dodgers' team physician, performed the surgery to repair two tears to tissue covering Taylor's shoulder muscle.

DENNIS THE MENACE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



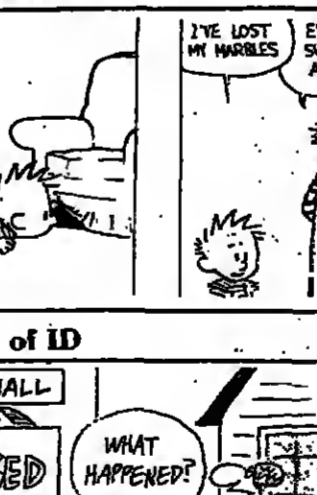
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SPORTS

Pro Bowl Mark: 11 Are Cowboys

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Dallas Cowboys must be "America's team" — 11 players for the defending Super Bowl champions, an NFL record for one team, have been selected for the National Football League's all-star game Feb. 6 in Honolulu in the first Pro Bowl balloting in which fans participated.

"I think having 11 guys selected shows you the kind of respect we have around the league," said wide receiver Michael Irvin, one of the Cowboys selected as a starter.

The NFL record is held by the 1973 Miami Dolphins the year after they won 17-0, the only perfect record in NFL history. The 1973 team also was a Super Bowl winner.

"You get a lot of Pro Bowl selections the year after you have a big season like we did in winning the Super Bowl," the Cowboys coach, Jimmy Johnson, said after the selections were announced Tuesday.

"I'm pleased to see we have three players make it on defense. Last year we didn't have any and we had the best defense in the league."

Only two other teams had as many as seven players selected in the first year that fans have participated. The 49ers got three of the six players who were named to the team in 1985, the first year that fans were allowed to vote — balloting by players, fans and coaches each counted one third.

This Pro Bowl also includes perhaps the oldest group of quarterbacks ever named, with 57-year-old Joe Montana of Kansas City and 38-year-old Warren Moon of Houston the AFC backups and 38-year-old Phil Simms of the New York Giants a backup for the NFC.

The starting quarterbacks are Troy Aikman of Dallas in the AFC and John Elway of Denver for the AFC. San Francisco's Steve Young joins Aikman and Simms as AFC quarterbacks.

"I was surprised I finished ahead of Steve," Aikman said.

In addition to having the fans join coaches and players in voting, there were several other changes in the format for this year.

Defenses were switched from 3-4 to 4-3, which meant an extra defensive lineman was selected and one less inside linebacker.

A fullback also was selected to go with three running backs, adding the Cowboys' Daryl Johnston to teammate Emmitt Smith. Detroit's Barry Sanders and the Los Angeles Rams' rookie Jerome Bettis in the AFC. The AFC fullback is Keith Byars of Miami, joining Buffalo's Thurman Thomas, Kansas City's Thurman Allen and Pittsburgh's Barry Foster.

Aikman was the top vote-getter among the fans, with more than 1 million players they top five choices. He got 316,702 votes, followed by Steve Young, 190,073 for Smith, 184,104 for Jerry Rice and 174,354 for Sanders.

Rice and Atlanta cornerback Deion Sanders were the only players to receive first-place votes in



Marc Girardelli, the reigning World Cup champion, flew down the course at Bormio, Italy, but came in second, .28 seconds back.

Trinkl Wins Downhill, Just Missing Record

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Hannes Trinkl of Austria turned in one of the fastest downhill races in Alpine ski history Wednesday for his second World Cup victory in eight days.

The 25-year-old from St. Pankraz beat reigning World Cup champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg by .28 seconds and the young American Tommy Moe by .51 by flashing down the demanding 3,582-meter-long Stelvio course in 1 minute, 55.76 seconds, at an average speed of 111.380 kph.

Armin Assinger, an Austrian who placed sixth in Wednesday's race, set the downhill record average of about 112 kph at Sierra Nevada — site of the 1995 World Championships — in a World Cup race last March.

Trinkl bettered by nine seconds Pirmin Zurbriggen's winning time in the world championships downhill race on the same course in 1985.

It was Trinkl's first downhill victory, added to his first triumph in a Super-G at Lech last week with a flawless performance on an icy, twisting technical course that dropped 1,070 meters.

"I attacked throughout. I made good turns and skied an almost perfect race," said Trinkl, who had four serious knee injuries between 1986 and 1989 in an effort to excel in speed races. He is now seeking a place on the powerful Austrian team for the February Olympics in Lillehammer.

"You need good luck for completing a race like this and no doubt I was lucky today," he said, adding that injuries were the toll "you must pay for becoming a good downhiller."

"He's the best downhiller of this season," said Girardelli, who posted his best downhill finish since 1989.

Girardelli, who's shooting for an unprecedented sixth World Cup title, finished twice among the top three in downhill this month and said he was steadily improving after a disappointing start to the season.

"Now I must do better in giant slalom and slalom," he said, "I have high hopes for the January races."

Moe, a 23-year-old from Alaska who has been the most consistent U.S. skier this season, made his best showing in an European downhill.

He had placed second at Whistler Mountain, Canada, last February, and placed in a super-giant slalom at Val D'Isere this month.

"I had a great race," said Moe, who climbed to 19th place in the overall Cup standings, with 159 points.

Günther Mader of Austria vaulted atop the Cup standings with 485 points with his seventh-place finish

Smaller Boats Best in Yacht Race

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HOBART, Australia — Ninety Seven, one of the smallest yachts in the fleet, led Sunday's big lead late Wednesday over a dwindling number of boats in the storm-battered Sydney-to-Hobart race.

Race officials reported that Ninety Seven, the 14.3-meter (47-foot) Australian sloop skippered by Andrew Strachan, was about 140 nautical miles (260 kilometers) from the finish line in Hobart.

In second place, the 14-nautical-mile steamer, was the 123-meter Cuckoo's Nest, skippered by Australia's winning America's Cup tactician, Hugh Trehan.

Wild Time was third, followed by Hartz Mineral Waters and Sword of Orion.

After a day of confusion over the position of the pocket maxi Bobbed-Societe Generale, it became apparent that Ninety Seven had taken the lead Tuesday night when the race favorite, the maxi Brindabella, withdrew with bow damage.

Bobbed, sailed by a crew of French navy cadets from the Ecole Polytechnique under French America's Cup skipper Yves Pajot, had erred in reporting its position Tuesday and was in eighth place Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

The fleet stood at 38 late Wednesday.

No fewer than 67 yachts had withdrawn from the 630-nautical-mile race and two had been sunk since the 103-foot fleet left Sydney Harbor on Sunday to be confronted with mountainous seas.

Brindabella's owner, George Snow, said his 23-meter yacht had left a submerged object that left a gouge in the bow.

The race director, Greg Halls, said the damage bill for repairs and sail replacement among the 67 dropouts had reached an estimated \$2 million.

Ninety Seven, a Sydney-based sloop, was expected to arrive in Hobart Thursday morning.

If she crosses the line first, she will be the smallest yacht in the race's 49-year history to take line honors, officials said.

"Everyone said this would be a race for the big boats because of the heavy seas and strong winds, but the smaller boats have proved the pundits wrong," one race official said, adding that "there are only two big boats in the top 10."

"This has been a remarkable performance by Ninety Seven and an even more amazing achievement by Cuckoo's Nest," the official said.

Beijing, 14 Other Cities, Interested in 2004 Olympics

Reuters

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — A total of 15 cities, including Beijing, have expressed interest in staging the Summer Olympic Games in the year 2004, the International Olympic Committee has reported.

In its weekly bulletin, the IOC said that among the 15 were Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg in South Africa, which only recently was readmitted to the Olympic movement following the official abandonment of the policy of apartheid.

Those three cities were believed to be planning a joint application to stage different events.

In Germany, the cities of Dusseldorf and Aachen were considering a joint candidacy on behalf of the Ruhr region, according to the bulletin.

A newcomer to the list of possible contenders was Russia's second city, St. Petersburg, Moscow staged the 1980 Olympics when it was capital of the then Soviet Union.

Beijing was a leading contender for the 2000 Olympics, but was edged out by Sydney when the IOC voted last September. Istanbul, another contender for 2000, is also considering a 2004 bid, the bulletin said.

Two other cities who sought the 2000 Games, Berlin and the northern British city of Manchester, have apparently shown no further interest and were not included on the IOC bulletin's list.

Other possible candidates for 2004, the bulletin said, were Buenos Aires, Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm, Seville in Spain and San Juan in Puerto Rico.

The national Olympic committees of countries considering staging the Games have until March 1996 to formally present their bids.

Pro Bowl Teams

Pro Bowl Teams
Posters for the Pro Bowl, to be played Sun. Feb. 6 in Honolulu. All starters in italics. All other players listed in parentheses.

Offense
QB — John Elway, Denver; Joe Montana, Kansas City; Aaron Rodgers, Minnesota; Tom Brady, New England; Peyton Manning, Indianapolis; Drew Brees, San Antonio; Drew Pearson, Dallas; Matt Ryan, Oakland
RB — Earl Ray McMillen, Tampa Bay; Mike Anderson, Houston; Eric Decker, Denver; Steve Watson, Pittsburgh
WR — Jason Wemyer, Tampa Bay; Ed McCaffrey, Denver; Wes Chandler, Houston; Demaryius Thomas, Denver; Jason Hill, Pittsburgh; Greg Jennings, New Orleans; Deion Sanders, Atlanta
TE — Mike Martin, Tampa Bay
OL — Mike Nugent, Tampa Bay; Matt Ryan, Oakland; Jason Wemyer, Tampa Bay; Chris Sanders, New Orleans
Defense
DE — Bruce Smith, Buffalo; Sam Williams, Houston; Willie Young, Houston; Jason Taylor, Denver; Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay; Mike Martin, Tampa Bay; Willie Young, Houston
LB — Scott Lovaas, Tampa Bay; Mike Martin, Tampa Bay; Willie Young, Houston
CB — Deion Sanders, Atlanta; James Lofton, Houston; Willie Young, Houston
S — Dwight Gooden, Tampa Bay; Mike Martin, Tampa Bay; Willie Young, Houston
K — Eric Decker, Denver
P — Steve Waterhouse, Tampa Bay

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
New York 47, Boston 41, Philadelphia 39, Toronto 28, Washington 28
Central Division
Cleveland 32, Detroit 30, Chicago 29, Milwaukee 25, Indiana 23
Midwest Division
Milwaukee 25, Detroit 30, Cleveland 32, Chicago 29, Indiana 23
Pacific Division
Seattle 31, Portland 21, Sacramento 17, Utah 16, Golden State 14
Southwest Division
Phoenix 27, San Antonio 23, Memphis 21, Dallas 19, Houston 18

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division
Milwaukee 25, Detroit 30, Cleveland 32, Chicago 29, Indiana 23
Pacific Division
Seattle 31, Portland 21, Sacramento 17, Utah 16, Golden State 14
Southwest Division
Phoenix 27, San Antonio 23, Memphis 21, Dallas 19, Houston 18

SIDELINES

Rains Bring Paris-Dakar Rally to Halt
PARIS (AFP) — Bad weather brought the Paris-Dakar rally to a halt Wednesday on its second day, with competitors bogged down in mud.

None of the motorcycles could start the 8.5-kilometer second special stage at Villeneuve d'Ornon near Bordeaux, and the automobile race was halted after 38 of the 95 cars had tried a shortened 4.5 kilometer course.

Torrential rain over the past 10 days had turned the course into axle deep mud, while flooded lakes on the route had also spilled over on to the track. "It was like driving in a quagmire," said Erwin Weber of Germany, a Mitsubishi driver.

Bowe Offers Holyfield \$20 Million
NEW YORK (AP) — Rock Newman, the manager of Riddick Bowe, has offered Evander Holyfield \$20 million to defend his heavyweight titles next May or June against the man he took them from in November.

Newman said he would go ahead with the fight even without approval of the IBF and WBA, which last week refused to sanction a heavyweight unification fight between Holyfield and WBC champion Lennox Lewis, claiming Holyfield's first obligation is a mandatory defense against No. 1 challenger Michael Moorer.

But Holyfield, in a statement, said: "If I decide to fight again, I'm not giving up any of my titles."

A Vinny Pazienza, the former champ whose neck was broken in an auto accident two years ago, knocked out Dan Sberry the 11th round in Aspen, Colorado, to take the vacant 180 super middleweight title.

Lemieux Is Likely Out Until March
PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins said Mario Lemieux's surgically repaired back is improving, but the four-time NHL scoring champion said he probably won't play again until March.

The Penguins' general manager, Craig Patrick, was arrested on drunk-driving charges early Tuesday after running into the side of a highway approach ramp.

For the Record
Paul Casagrande is doubtful for Lazio's match Sunday with Sampdoria after returning from his Christmas break in England with a groin strain, said the "very annoyed" coach of the Rome team, Dino Zoff. (AFP)

World Cup Sking

World Cup Sking

MEN'S DOWNHILL

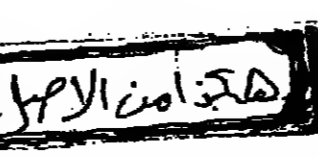
1. Marc Girardelli, Luxembourg
2. Pirmin Zurbriggen, Switzerland
3. Armin Assinger, Austria
4. Hannes Trinkl, Austria
5. Axel Moger, Norway
6. Tommy Moe, USA
7. Christoph Renner, Austria
8. Andreas Scherzer, Austria
9. Patrick Ortlieb, Austria
10. Armin Assinger, Austria

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ART BUCHWALD

Famous First Words

WASHINGTON — People said things to each other in 1993 that they would just as soon take back. Here are some of them: John Bobbitt to his wife, "Honey, is the sushi ready?"

Michael Jackson to a young boy, "Be my guest." Executive to Larry Tisch, head of CBS, "Mr. Tisch, there's no sense in my paying a lot of money for the NFL games. Where else can the owners go?"

Producer to PBS director, "Why don't we get Howard Stern to read stories to children on 'Sesame Street'?"

To President Clinton from an aide, "There are two Arkansas state troopers in the anteroom. They want to know if they talk to the press are they still entitled to benefits under Hillary's health plan?"

To Princess Diana from a friend, "Have you ever thought of telling Charles that you would like to be queen, and he can have the house in the country?"

Joey Buttafuoco's lawyer, "Joey, there isn't a jury in the country that won't choke up when you tell them you never laid a hand on Amy Fisher because she was too young for you."

Lieutenant junior grade to top admiral at Las Vegas Tailhook convention, "Sir, why don't we stop in on the third floor and have a quiet nightcap with the boys?"

Ship Models to Be Sold

VOUVRAY, France — One of Europe's major private collections of model sailing ships, on show at a museum here until mid-January, is to be sold at auction. The 60 scale models were collected over 30 years by former a French naval officer, Christian Barriere de Blois. He hunted down the original ship-making plans in maritime museums and obscure libraries, and entrusted the model-making to four professional workshops in Mauritius, the United States, Italy and Australia.

Publicity agent to Burt Reynolds, "If you go on TV and tell the world how cruel and selfish Loni Anderson was to you during your marriage, you'll have the sympathy of every woman in the country."

Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman to one of his followers, "Before you blow up the World Trade Center, be sure to get your parking ticket validated."

To Pablo Escobar, the dope king, from his lawyer, "If you surrender, the most the judge can give you is 100 hours of community service at the Medellin Boys Club."

Senator Bob Packwood to a female staffer, "Some day people are going to read this diary and say, 'So, that's what United States senators do.'"

Hollywood agent to Chevy Chase, "Chevy, everyone in America is dying to watch your late show. Give up your movie career and I'll make you the next Johnny Carson."

Heidi Fleiss, the alleged Hollywood madam, to a client, "Yes, you are my little black book but only as the Orkin man."

Boris Yeltsin's political adviser, "Hold elections now and the people will give you a vote of confidence the likes of which Mother Russia has never seen."

The best friend of Ross Perot, "You should buy TV time right away and make Bill Clinton sorry he ever heard of Ross Perot."

Admiral Bobby Ray Inman's accountant, "You can pay your part-time help's Social Security or you can not pay it. It will still have no effect on how many nuclear missiles the North Koreans have to their bunkers."

Woody Allen to Mia, "I'm taking you to the spring prom, and I promise not to drink when I'm driving."

Mia to Woody, "I don't know anyone I would trust with my 19-year-old daughter than the man I once loved."

Patient to Dr. Jack Kerouac, "Hello, Doctor, I can't seem to shake this bad cold. Any chance you can fit me in today?"

President Clinton, sitting in Air Force One on Los Angeles airport tarmac, "Anyone around here know where I can get a haircut?"

Fading Praise for the Aging Kurosawa

By T.R. Reid

TOKYO — Does a brilliant artist who has spent half a century making a magnificent, indelible contribution to the world's cinematic literature have the right, after 50 years, to become self-indulgent, long-winded — even downright prosaic?

The question arises in the case of Akira Kurosawa, Japan's greatest filmmaker, creator of such classics as "Rashomon" and "The Seven Samurai," winner of two Oscars and countless other awards, role model and mentor for two generations of younger directors including Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola.

This year the jaunty 83-year-old Kurosawa celebrated his 50th year as a director and released his special Golden Jubilee film, "Mahda da yo!" ("No, Not Yet!"), to mark the occasion.

Therein lies the problem: The new Kurosawa movie, a meandering 2-hour-20-minute memoir that is almost completely free of plot, was roundly criticized here for its overly long and downright tedious. Even worse, "No, Not Yet!" is the third Kurosawa film in three years to garner that kind of reaction from the critics.

At the twilight of a spectacular career, Akira Kurosawa appears to have run smack into the classic dilemma of "The Great Man": Nobody dares challenge his judgments on the set or in the editing room — but without artistic challenge and careful editing, the great man can't make great movies.

It's hard to imagine that the most recent Kurosawa movie will inspire much of anything beyond wistful memories. Each frame is virtually perfect, like the servings in one of those exquisite Japanese restaurants where every last pea and parsley sprig is placed just so on the plate to enhance the aesthetic effect. But "No, Not Yet!" has none of the electricity, the sheer dramatic drive, of the great Kurosawa movies.

Kurosawa himself, it must be said, seems completely impervious to this line of criticism. His only concern, he has said, is that "I don't have much time to live, and there are so many films I want to shoot before I die."

In fact, the whole point of "No, Not Yet!" is Kurosawa's insistence that he's not yet ready to slip into retirement.

It is a treatise on the exalted status of the sensei in Confucian societies. The sensei — the word is usually translated as "teacher" or "master" — is not just the professor who teaches you for a couple of semesters, but rather a guide and mentor for life. In "No, Not Yet," a large group of Uchida's former students form a club to serve and honor their sensei.

In the film world, of course, the greatest sensei of all is Akira Kurosawa. His "students," including the late Indian director Satyajit Ray, the French director Alain Renais and some, but not all, young Japanese directors, tend to honor and worship their master much the way Professor Uchida's students do. Thus, it doesn't take a great deal of insight to suppose that Kurosawa's new movie is also a movie about Kurosawa.

The film exhibits all the signature Kurosawa touches and has some fine performances (Tatsuo Matsumura as the sensei and George Tokoro as a leader of the students).

But one of that is enough to bring the plodding movie to life. At a showing in downtown Tokyo, people in the audience were scoring loudly after the first half-hour, and at least a third had left long before the extended final scene.

"The film is completely flat," complained critic Kenji Sato in the influential magazine Shounin. "It lacks the thing that is indispensable for a movie: drama."

Harsh words indeed for a man who has made any number of vividly dramatic films since the fateful day in 1943 when he took the director's chair on the set of a judo feature called "Sanshiro Sugata."

"It was wartime," Kurosawa recalled later, and because of Japanese military censorship, "you weren't allowed to say anything worth saying." Still, "Sanshiro Sugata" was a success — "the film as a whole has directness, economy, and a superb athletic beauty," the American critic Donald Richie noted — and Kurosawa was on his way.

The great breakthrough came seven years later with the astonishing "Rashomon," a strange and wonderful cinema experience that has become a touchstone for the modern age.

"Rashomon" was a mild success in post-war Japan. Neither Kurosawa nor anyone else expected anything much to come of it. But by chance, an Italian director traveling through Tokyo saw the movie and recommended it to the organizers of the Venice Film Festival. When "Rashomon" took the



Akira Kurosawa, 83, is impervious to the criticism of "No, Not Yet."

Grand Prix at the 1951 Venice Festival — and the 1952 Oscar for Best Foreign Film — the Western world woke up to the fact that there was a genius director in Japan.

Kurosawa wrote later that winning these international awards for a movie about ancient Japan was exhilarating but also disconcerting. "If Western people are going to watch my movies, I want them to be movies about what's happening in Japan today," he said.

Within his first decade as a director, Kurosawa had made "Rashomon," "Ikiru" and "The Seven Samurai" — three movies universally recognized as classics. Gradually, though, he lost his connection with the Japanese audience. His films, such as "Red Beard" and "High and Low," were box office flops, and by the early 1970s he couldn't get financing at home to make more movies.

Kurosawa's second Oscar-winner, "Dersu Uzala" (1975), is basically a Russian movie, financed by the Soviet state movie company Mosfilm. His 1980 tragedy "Kagemusha" was financed by Coppola and Lucas. Lucas and Spielberg were the angels for the alternately convincing and compelling "Dreams," which Kurosawa completed by his 80th birthday in 1990.

By then, the Japanese economy was the wonder of the world, and Kurosawa was once again able to find backers at home. In 1991, just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, he finally made a movie, "Rhapsody in August," about the subject that had been lurking in his mind like a bad dream for 45 years: the atom bomb.

The film was somewhat successful in Japan, but it infuriated Westerners. Kurosawa apparently didn't realize that this depiction of the A-bomb would make some people very mad. On the night in March 1991 when he proudly previewed the movie in Tokyo, the master was clearly stunned by the intensely hostile reaction from Western journalists.

"Rhapsody in August," Kurosawa said, was "an act of forgiveness between the people of the countries." Americans wondered why it was the United States that had to be forgiven for the tragedies of World War II, and "Rhapsody in August" did poorly outside of Japan.

Now, with "No, Not Yet!," Kurosawa has retreated to politically safe territory. The problem with the new movie is not that it will anger people, but rather that it may bore them to death.

PEOPLE

Young Bosnian Diarist Has a Peaceful Holiday

A Bosnian girl whose diary of civil war is being published worldwide is spending her first peaceful holiday in two years after fleeing Sarajevo. Zlata Filipovic, 13, is resting in Paris before beginning a promotion campaign next week for "Zlata's Diary," said a spokeswoman for her publisher. First, Zlata will begin interviews next week in France and tour Europe for four months before heading for Japan and the United States. On her 11th birthday, Zlata began what at first was a diary like countless others. Several months later, war between the Serbs and the Muslim-led government broke out.

The Guggenheim Museum in New York has settled its lawsuit against the owners of a 1912 Marc Chagall watercolor that was stolen from the museum more than 25 years ago. Guggenheim officials said "Le Marchand de Bestiaux" was stolen between 1965 and 1967. The painting, with a current value of about \$200,000, resurfaced in 1985 in the apartment of Jules and Rachel Lubell, who had paid a New York gallery \$17,000 for it in 1967. Mrs. Lubell's lawyers said she and her late husband had no idea it was stolen, and no one was ever arrested for the theft. One of the defendants, the art dealer Gertrude Stein, said the total settlement was \$212,000.

Princess Diana, currently in Washington, will strike another blow for personal freedom by dispensing with her bodyguards in England, the Today tabloid reports. It quotes an unidentified source as saying, "She wants to be able to melt into the background. She has had no private life for 13 long years."

The Italian porn star and former member of parliament Cecilia Fenu to New York on Wednesday to retrieve her young son, whom she alleges was kidnapped by her estranged husband, the artist Jeff Koons. Diana Staller went to the Italian media last Friday with allegations that Koons had fled with their 13-month-old son.

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WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for Europe, including High/Low temperatures and wind speeds for various cities like London, Paris, and Rome.

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by Accu-Weather.



Table with weather forecasts for North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania, including High/Low temperatures and wind speeds.

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Table with ski resort reports for various locations including Aspen, Vail, and Breckenridge, listing snow conditions, lift status, and other details.

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